

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR BRETT FADGEN

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brett Fadgen, the 2007 Pennsylvania Paramedic of the Year. Not only is Mr. Fadgen an EMS Paramedic Rescue Technician for the Ross and West View communities, he also flies with Stat MedEvac, serves as a trained firefighter for his local fire department, and teaches at the Community College of Allegheny County. He is truly a model representative of the thousands of paramedics who serve in Pennsylvania, and I was pleased to learn that the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council awarded him with this great honor on August 18.

Mr. Fadgen became an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at the age of 17 after volunteering with the local emergency medical service. Upon graduating from Gannon University with a Bachelor of Science degree, he attended school to become a paramedic. In 2002, Mr. Fadgen moved with his family to Ross Township, Pennsylvania and has served the community as a paramedic ever since. Recently, Mr. Fadgen obtained his nursing degree from Duquesne University and accepted a position as a Registered Nurse for UPMC Presbyterian. Although he has taken on a new role in the community, Mr. Fadgen remains committed to continuing his work as a paramedic on a part-time basis.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Fadgen's outstanding accomplishment of becoming the 2007 Pennsylvania Paramedic of the Year. His incredible achievements are just one example of the extraordinary work being accomplished by paramedics across the nation. On behalf of my family and the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, I extend our thanks and eternal gratitude to Mr. Brett Fadgen for his continued commitment to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM JOHNSON

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to an extraordinary educator from my home district in California. Samuel Johnson Jr. has retired following four decades of service to students. Remarkably, for 39 of those years, Sam Johnson was employed at the San Mateo Union High School District, with the final three years as its Superintendent.

A native of Louisiana, Sam Johnson struggled against and rose above the racial challenges of his generation. His career displays a shining light of perseverance and profes-

sionalism, offering a pioneering example for all races.

Yet let me say, Madame Speaker, that Sam Johnson's legacy is his devotion to young people, his determination that every student should have the ability to excel, to achieve and ultimately to find success in higher education.

His first job as a teacher was in his home state of Louisiana, and his eventual move to the San Mateo Union High School District after that first year began a lengthy tenure of dedication at the district he would call home for four decades.

Beginning his career as a math teacher, Sam Johnson went on to hold nearly every administrative position in the district. His responsibilities ranged through the years from being the Director of Human Relations for the entire San Mateo Union High School District to being Assistant Principal and then Principal of Capuchino High School, where he was successful in acquiring a prestigious Carnegie Grant. He later served as Director of Personnel, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources and Administrative Services and finally, Superintendent of the District, overseeing seven schools.

Madam Speaker, I would like my colleagues to know that Sam Johnson will be remembered for his commitment to the advancement of young people from all walks of life. His innovative pursuit of an Academic Core Curriculum, guaranteeing that every student would be taking classes geared to success in college, was just one example of helping everyone realize educational dreams. He combined that vision with a push for seven periods in the school day, giving students the opportunity to benefit from additional elective classes. He also spearheaded a school year calendar change that more effectively linked the end of academic classes with holiday vacations. These changes, which required political and administrative strength to achieve, highlight much of Sam Johnson's talents and vision. His success at reaching these goals provided more academic opportunities for the students in his care. I am proud to say that the San Mateo Union High School District has reported successively improving student scores in recent years, something universally desired in any educational environment.

Madam Speaker, Samuel Johnson Jr. deserves respect and appreciation for an educational career focused on improving the opportunities and experiences of young people attending public school. He faced many challenges during his tenure, specific to the San Mateo Union High School District as well as relating to society in general. He met those challenges with dignity and what many of his colleagues described as class, while never wavering from the dream he held as a young teacher in Louisiana; a dream of helping students find the path to realizing their own hopes and dreams.

Madam Speaker, I want to wish Samuel Johnson Jr.; his wife, Della; and children Brad and Shana, happiness in his retirement and

congratulations on his four-decade career in education.

JACOB ADAM HENDRICKS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Adam Hendricks, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Adam Hendricks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTIN SAVIDGE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Martin Savidge for his 27 years of service to the American public, through his role as a news anchor and national correspondent for many prominent news networks.

Martin, who is currently a correspondent with NBC News, does regular reporting for NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, the Today Show, and MSNBC. Prior to NBC, Martin was a news anchor and a national correspondent for CNN, based at the network's world headquarters in Atlanta.

Martin graduated from Rocky River High School and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University. He began his broadcast career as an anchor and reporter for WCIA-TV in Champaign, IL in 1980. He then moved on to work as the prime-time anchor for WMBD-TV in Peoria, IL. Martin also worked as a reporter for the Associated Press, as well as a special projects reporter and anchor for WJW-TV in Cleveland.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Martin reported from New York City's Ground Zero on the search and rescue mission and the ongoing recovery efforts. In 2003, Martin delivered on-the-ground coverage of the crises in Iraq as one of CNN's embedded journalists. Martin most recently served as NBC's primary correspondent in New Orleans,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

covering Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath along the Gulf Coast.

Martin has been honored with some of broadcast journalism's most prestigious awards, including two Headliner Awards, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, a Peabody Award, a DuPont Award and an Emmy. In October 2002, the National Journalism Education Association named Martin its Media Person of the Year for his support of scholastic journalism.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Martin Savidge for his dedication to informing the public about important national and world issues, and his commitment to educating future journalists.

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TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ROBERT E.  
KELLEY

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**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Robert E. Kelley on his retirement after more than four decades of service to the citizens of Vernon, CT, as a firefighter and first responder.

Bob began his career in 1966 at the Rockville Fire Department, where he ascended to the rank of Battalion Chief of the Rescue Squad. In 1980, he was promoted to the position of District Fire Chief and later Chief of the Town of Vernon Fire Department in 1986. Bob's commitment to public service is evident in his dedication to do what is best for the citizens of his town and his fellow firefighters, regardless of the task. As a supervisor and mentor his contribution is immeasurable, but his record speaks for itself. No firefighter has ever lost his life in the line of duty under the command of Chief Kelley, and that speaks to his professionalism, dedication, and commitment to public safety and his comrades.

I have known Bob for almost 20 years in a number of different capacities: constituent, fellow town official, advisor, and friend, and he has served the people of Vernon and Tolland County with integrity and distinction. His duties have covered the gamut; planning, developing budgets, saving lives, and protecting property. He also oversaw the transformation of public safety from a loose group of local volunteers to a sophisticated cutting edge network of first responders. We are lucky to still have a predominantly all volunteer force, and under Bob's leadership they have been trained and equipped to deal with the challenges of the 21st century. Congratulations to Bob, his wife of 47 years, Marilla, and his family on this well-deserved retirement. I hope he still drives a red Ford around town so I will know he's coming down the street.

The Town of Vernon Fire Department will miss his leadership and I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in thanking Bob Kelley for his years of public service and wishing him well in his new endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO DIC YOUNGS

**HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life works and career of a local Iowa luminary. Born in Grand Island, NE, Dic Youngs—or "Youngsy" to his fans—has become a legend of regional radio in the Des Moines metro area, attracting loyal listeners from every Iowa demographic over his half century of commitment to the air waves. With the announcement of his retirement from 93.3 KIOA this July, it is proper that we should honor a man who has come to be so cherished in the hearts and homes of several generations of Iowans.

Dic Youngs has always had panache, and he has basked in the community spotlight since his youth. As a young man attending East High School in Des Moines, his athletic prowess earned him many distinctions, and he gained substantial notoriety within the greater conference community throughout his athletic career. At the age of 16, Dic's radio career was kick-started as he championed a KSO amateur DJ contest, and was given a position at radio 1460 KSO, Des Moines. Soon after, he began broadcasting the sounds of the sixties from his "KSO Fish Bowl" studio, which was originally located in the display window of a downtown shop. He was a "smash" with Des Moines area teens, and by charming them with his skillful spins and witty words, he established a loyal fan base from the very beginning.

Dic started his time at 93.3 KIOA in February of 1966, after a brief hiatus from Iowa radio, and remained there for nearly 42 years. During his time at KIOA, he was known for his afternoon broadcasts and the "Original Saturday Night Oldies Show." But Dic did more than DJ during his time at KIOA—he was also an exceptional philanthropist, and was passionately involved in the local community. As a member of the KIOA High Hoopers Basketball team, he helped raise nearly one million dollars for various charitable causes, and he is known in the region for his 50 hour radiothons to benefit the Variety Club of Iowa; the grand total of his personal fund-raising efforts climbing to nearly \$500,000. He has orchestrated 26 "Rock and Roll Reunions" at the Iowa State Fair, and was responsible for the crowd-pleasing "KIOA Good Guy Reunions."

Many Iowans will remember Dic as the man whose voice and musical repertoire filled lazy afternoons and memorable Saturday nights, as the man who first introduced them to the Beatles, and as the man whose steadfastly positive presence in the community has been an inspiration and a blessing to so many. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and career of Dic Youngs. We congratulate you and wish you the best of luck in retirement.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN ERICK M.  
FOSTER

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CPT Erick M. Foster, an Army Ranger who was killed while serving in Iraq on August 29, 2007. As a member of the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, he was struck by small arms fire while conducting a dismounted patrol in Muqadiyah, Iraq. This was Captain Foster's second deployment to Iraq.

Captain Foster was born and raised in Pennsylvania and graduated from North Allegheny High School. After graduation, he attended Duquesne University, where he took part in their Reserve Officer Training (ROTC) program while majoring in information technology. In 2000, Captain Foster graduated from Duquesne University and received his commission as an officer in the United States Army.

Captain Foster was awarded the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and numerous other military awards for his service to our country. He will forever be remembered as a patriot and a respected combat leader.

On behalf of my family, the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend our heartfelt sympathy and eternal gratitude to Captain Foster's family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his parents, Robert and Barbara, and his sisters Elizabeth and Abby.

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DAMON JOSEPH ARREDONDO

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Damon Joseph Arredondo, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Damon has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Damon has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Damon Joseph Arredondo for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS OF NEW YORK CITY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of Humane Voters of New York City (LOHV-NYC) for their support of animal rights and their efforts to hold elected officials accountable to their constituents on issues concerning animal welfare.

Since their conception in 2001, the League of Humane Voters of New York City has been mobilizing public concern for animal rights through the democratic process by campaigning for the election of humane candidates to public office. LOHV-NYC has become a driving force for the defense of animals in New York City by raising tens of thousands of dollars and campaigning for dozens of humane candidates at the local and State level. LOHV-NYC recognized that animal rights was a political issue as well as a moral issue and has worked with citizens, activists, political parties, candidates and elected representatives to create awareness for animal welfare issues.

In January 2006, the LOHV-NYC created and published the first ever humane scorecard for the New York City Council, which tracked Council members' votes and sponsorship of legislation relating to animal welfare issues. The scorecard was first published in Satya Magazine in 2006 and since then has received major media attention.

The members of the League of Humane Voters in New York City are leaders in the animal protection movement, experts in law and politics, and everyday citizens. I would like to congratulate them on their dedication and on educating countless people on animal rights' issues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, on September 7, 2007, I missed rollcall vote No. 863, on passage of H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007. I was in Iraq visiting Washington State soldiers. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES-POLAND PARLIAMENTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 377, the United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program Act of 2007. I was a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1636, the House companion to S. 377,

and was the lead original co-sponsor of the bill in the 109th Congress. This legislation will establish a new program to help American students learn about the Polish parliament, help Polish students learn about the U.S. Congress, and help both of these countries better understand one of their closest allies.

Since the establishment of the Polish Republic in 1919, the United States has been in diplomatic relations with Poland. Our friend has cooperated closely with us on issues such as nuclear proliferation, human rights, and democratization. It is important that the youth of our nations ensure that both social and diplomatic ties between our two great nations remain a top priority.

The purpose of the youth exchange program is to demonstrate to the youth of the United States and Poland the benefits of friendly cooperation between the United States and Poland based on common political and cultural values.

On behalf of the more than 110,000 residents of Illinois' Fifth Congressional District of Polish descent, I want to extend our gratitude. Poland has long been a strong ally of the United States, and has assisted in global efforts to combat terrorism. Our friends have also provided troops and resources for Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is a country that is committed to the democratic ideals of liberty and human rights.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that we are considering this legislation today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a strong symbol of our friendship with Poland.

BRENDAN WILLIAM WATERS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brendan William Waters, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brendan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brendan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brendan William Waters for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 2007-2008 PRESIDENT RON MARVEL AND LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT DEBBIE MARVEL

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the fire service leadership in Delaware

during the Annual Conference of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Thousands of citizens in Delaware participate as volunteer emergency responders and support personnel in our fire companies across the state. They work tirelessly alongside of our career fire service members making our state a safer place to live.

Each year at the Conference, firefighters come to training opportunities, business meetings, and social events. Firefighters display the pride in their company and equipment during the annual parade.

Over the next year the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association will be led by President Ron Marvel of Seaford. Ron operates a family business in Seaford where he is a longtime member and Past Chief at the Seaford Volunteer Fire Department. Prior to being elected as the President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association, Ron served as President of the Delaware State Fire Chiefs Association, the Sussex County Fire Chiefs Association and the Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

The Ladies Auxiliary President for 2007-2008 is Debra "Debbie" Marvel. Debbie is a homemaker and is active in her church as an organist as well being a community volunteer in Seaford. Debbie is a life member of the Seaford Ladies Auxiliary and has held many offices up to and including President. She is active in the Sussex County Ladies Auxiliary Association having held the office of President. Her leadership ability is recognized by the ladies auxiliary members throughout our state who elected her to the office of President.

Fire company leaders like Ron and Debbie exemplify a commitment of service to our citizens not unlike the service provided by all the members of the Delaware Fire Service. I wish them well over the next year as they take on this enormous task of leading our first responders.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE WESTERN CAMPUS OF CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 40th year of the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. In the time this institution has been in existence, it has served hundreds of thousands of people in the community as an institution of higher learning. It is a shining example of the quality education such an institution can provide to a local community.

The campus currently serves between 11,000 and 12,000 credit students each term, as well as many more non-credit students. It is considered one of the top community colleges not only in the state of Ohio, but in the United States.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Cuyahoga Community College for its 40 years of dedication to affordable, quality education. May they continue to be stewards of minds of all ages, and may their commitment to northeast Ohio grow even stronger.

21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CENTER FOR MEDICARE ADVOCACY

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the twenty-first anniversary of the Center for Medicare Advocacy. Headquartered in Willimantic, Connecticut, this national non-profit organization is dedicated to educating, advocating for, and providing legal assistance to older Americans and individuals with disabilities. Navigating the waters of the Medicare system can be daunting. However with groups such as CMA, eligible individuals are able to gain coverage and improved access to our health care system.

The Center for Medicare Advocacy was established in 1986 by Judith Stein, who today serves as the Executive Director. In the decade before the founding of the CMA, Ms. Stein was the Co-Director of Legal Assistance to Medicare Patients. There, she managed the first Medicare advocacy program in the country. That passion for advocacy carried over with the creation of the CMA. Most recently, Judith was appointed by Senator CHRIS DODD to the White House Council on Aging, where she served with distinction and was instrumental in crafting the Council's recommendations regarding Medicare improvements.

CMA, with its staff of nurses, attorneys, legal assistants, and information management specialists, has educated thousands of individuals. Their writings on Medicare are a valuable resource and set a high standard for Medicare related outreach. In Connecticut, the organization also provides legal training and support for the State health insurance and assistance program. Additionally, CMA has utilized their incredible wealth of experience to provide invaluable policy advice to the Connecticut Congressional delegation and Congress as a whole during debate over Medicare reform.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the contribution and public service provided by the Center for Medicare Advocacy and its founder Judith Stein, as the organization celebrates 21 years of support for our Nation's seniors and disabled persons.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PHILLIPS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Phillips for his devotion and tireless efforts for the humane treatment and protection of animals.

As a longtime animal advocate, John Phillips was named the first ever Executive Director of the League of Humane Voters of New York City (LOHV-NYC) in 2004. Under his direction, LOHV-NYC has become a driving force for the defense of animals in New York City by raising tens of thousands of dollars and campaigning for dozens of humane candidates at the local and state level. He also helped organize the first ever humane lobby day, bringing dozens of animal advocates to City Hall to lobby their elected officials.

John Phillips' energy and passion for the creation of effective animal protection legislation at the local, state, and federal level has been a major force in fostering discussion of the issues most important to the LOHV-NYC.

His passion for the protection of animals and the education of people about the suffering of animals started at a young age, when he became a vegetarian at the age of 10 and a vegan at the age of 14. As well as becoming an animal activist, John Phillips has been involved with many other social justice groups, including those committed to the rights of the LGBT community, the homeless, and the environment.

In January 2007, John Phillips was awarded the In Defense of Animals' Companion Animal Guard for his work with LOHV-NYC. We should all take note of his devotion to the protection of animals and I would like to congratulate John Phillips on his many accomplishments.

CHRISTOPHER BRANDON GOODALE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Brandon Goodale, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Brandon Goodale for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, on September 7, 2007, I missed rollcall vote No. 864, on agreeing to the Conference Report on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act. I was in Iraq, visiting Washington State soldiers. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, on behalf of more than 110,000 of my constituents who

are of Polish descent, I proudly rise to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America.

The Polish community has existed in Chicago for more than two centuries, and few immigrant groups have come to Chicago in such consistent numbers over that period of time. Beginning in 1830 when three Polish people voted in the first Chicago mayoral election, the Polish community has left an indelible mark on Chicago's political, cultural, and economic development.

The Polish Museum of America is the oldest ethnic museum in the United States. Founded in 1935, the Museum has preserved the artistic, cultural, historic and literary heritage of Poles in America and throughout the world. More than 10,000 people visit the Museum every year.

The 1939 New York World's Fair included various international exhibits, one of which was Poland's pavilion. When Nazi Germany invaded Poland, it became clear that the exhibit at the World's Fair could not return to Poland. To preserve a portion of the exhibit, the directors of the Polish Museum of America purchased three-fourths of the exhibit from the Polish government. Today, the Museum displays the memorabilia from the 1939 New York World's Fair Polish Pavilion.

Today the Museum also houses the personal possessions of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. A pianist, composer and the third Prime Minister of Poland, Paderewski and his sister, Antonina, were avid supporters of the Museum. Students and researchers of Polish and Polish American history use the rich collections from the Polish Museum's Library and Archives that include collections on Kosciuszko and Pope John Paul II. The Museum also houses large collections of Polish folklore and an art gallery featuring several paintings by Jacek Malczewski and Olga Boznanska.

To commemorate the anniversary, the Polish Museum of America began a photo project to digitize more than 15,000 photographs of the Polish community in Chicago and the United States. They are also offering a traveling exhibit of Poles in Chicago, and are conducting inventories of publishing efforts in America during Germany's occupation of Poland in World War II.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on 70 years of enriching the culture of Chicago, and for continuing to be a hub of activity for Poles throughout Chicago and the country. I wish them continued success in the future.

IN HONOR OF DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
2006-2007 PRESIDENT ALAN ROBINSON AND LADIES AUXILIARY  
PRESIDENT FLORENCE LEGATES

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the fire service leadership in Delaware during the Annual Conference of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Thousands of the citizens of Delaware participate as volunteer emergency responders

and support personnel in our fire companies across the state. They work tirelessly along side of our career fire service members making our state a safer place to live.

Each year at the Conference firefighters come to training opportunities, business meetings and social events. Firefighters display the pride in their company and equipment during the annual parade.

This year the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association was led by President Alan Robinson of Citizen Hose in Smyrna. As a life member of Citizen Hose, Alan has been a tremendous asset to the community serving as a Past Chief of Citizen Hose and as past President of the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association. His dedication to the fire service is without question and his leadership as a teacher in the public and parochial schools has provided many young individuals with an opportunity to succeed. All of us in the community greatly appreciate his dedication and commitment to serving others and during his leadership we have seen many great accomplishments in the DVFA. We are forever in his debt.

The Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Ladies Auxiliary leader and President for the past year, Florence Legates, has given her time and energy for many years serving in many capacities. As a public safety fire educator with the Delaware Fire School, Florence was nationally recognized as a fire educator. In addition, Florence's service as President of the Kent County Ladies Auxiliary and her overall commitment to the fire service helped bring about positive change. Her service on the National Fire Protection Association Committee has been remarkable and we in Delaware know the value of what she has been able to accomplish as our President of the DVFA Ladies Auxiliary.

Fire Company leaders like Alan and Florence exemplify a commitment of service to our citizens not unlike the service provided by all the members of the Delaware Fire Service. I wish them well over the next year as they transition out of their role as President and thank them for their dedicated service leading our first responders.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPH STEPHEN ZORETIC

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the life of a courageous and passionate man, Joseph Stephen Zoretic, who dedicated his life to fighting for sensible drug policy and to free others from suffering. Along with his devoted wife, Dee Dee, he was a founding member of the Ohio Patient Network and its lobbying component, the Ohio Patient Action Network.

Joe started his life-long residency in the Cleveland area on December 25th, 1968. He became an active figure in the medical marijuana movement in the 1990s, when his wife was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and needed cannabis to relieve the pain other medications could not. Since then, Joe provided policy ideas and inspiration to the state marijuana legalization activist com-

munity, from speaking at mainstream political events to testifying for better drug policy. Even if it meant going to jail, Joe stood up for what he knew: that love and bravery can overcome injustice.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and remembering an extraordinary husband, father, citizen, and activist, Joseph Stephen Zoretic, who demonstrated the power we all possess to make change in this world.

#### COLTON DAVID PRICE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colton David Price, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colton has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Colton has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colton David Price for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DANIEL F. SPALLONE

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in tribute to the life of Judge Daniel F. Spallone. Mr. Spallone passed on August 20, 2007, after a full life of public service to his state and country. He was 85 years old.

As was common for men of his generation, the college career of a young Daniel Spallone was interrupted by the events of World War II. While he was unable to enlist in the armed forces due to childhood polio, he felt the call to duty and volunteered for the American Field Service (AFS) ambulance corps. Members of the AFS drove life-saving ambulances under extremely dangerous conditions on the war front, and Mr. Spallone served bravely with British forces in Burma, India, and Italy from 1942–1945. By virtue of his service to his country, he and other AFS volunteers were awarded an honorable discharge from the United States Army by act of Congress in 1991.

Following his war service, Mr. Spallone returned to the University of Connecticut and received his bachelor's degree in 1949 and obtained his law degree in 1960, also from UConn. Spallone served as town attorney to Deep River, Connecticut from 1965 to 1970 and also served on a number of elected and appointed local boards and commissions. In 1970, he was appointed to the Circuit Court

and in 1974 was elevated to the Court of Common Pleas. This was followed by a 1978 appointment by Governor Ella Grasso to the Superior Court bench. In 1984, Mr. Spallone was appointed as a charter member of the Appellate Court where he was noted for his keen ability to focus on the key issues in cases before the court. He served on the bench until his retirement in 1991, after which he continued to work as a trial judge referee.

Mr. Spallone's distinguished record has carried over to a second generation of the Spallone family. His son Jamie is a State Representative from the 36th Assembly District of Connecticut. He does an outstanding job for his constituents and the State of Connecticut, just as his father did.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Judge Daniel F. Spallone and his service to our great nation. His years of dedication to the ideals of the American judicial system has left a lasting legacy for the State of Connecticut and his knowledge, generosity, and dedication will live on in the memory of all those he has touched.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO SHAWN JOHNSON

#### HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young Iowa woman whose inspired, gymnastic talent has made her a key player on the international Olympic stage. Shawn Johnson, age 15, is quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with amongst some of the best female gymnasts in the world. No stranger to media attention, Shawn was honored this week as ABC News' "Person of the Week."

A Des Moines native, Shawn began practicing gymnastics at the age of six, as a way to channel excess energy. Originally thought to be incapable of attaining the grace that modern gymnastics requires, Shawn's future as a world-class gymnast looked rather bleak. However, with the right coach, hard work, and a positive attitude, she was recently named "World Champion" at the contest in Stuttgart, Germany. This year alone, she has been named the 2007 U.S. National Champion, the AA and Beam Champion in Lisburn, the 2007 American Cup All-Around Champion, and the "all-around" gymnast at the 2007 Pan-American contest, among many others.

Aside from her athletic aptitude, Shawn is also an exceptional student, and having just started her junior year at Valley Southwoods High School in West Des Moines, she is interested in her high school football team, horseback riding, scrap-booking, and spending time with her friends and family. Shawn feels that the discipline she has learned from her involvement in gymnastics has helped her to excel in other areas of her life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this impressive and determined young lady. We wish you the best of luck as you continue to represent your community and your country in all of your athletic endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HAZO WILLIAM  
CARTER, JR.

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor West Virginia State University President, Dr. Hazo William Carter, Jr., who will celebrate twenty years as president of the institution.

Prior to being president, Dr. Carter began his career as an Executive Assistant to the President of Norfolk State University and was the former President of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is originally a native of Nashville, Tennessee where he received his Doctorate degree from George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Carter set lofty goals for himself and for the institution when he was named president of West Virginia State College in 1987. His first goal was for West Virginia State College to regain its status as an 1890 Land Grant Institution; this was no easy task. Dr. Carter met with the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, the United States Department of Agriculture, state administrators, and the state legislature to request to regain the school's original status. After overcoming many obstacles in an eleven-year quest, West Virginia State College finally obtained its original status as an 1890 Land Grant Institution which secured the school of receiving annual federal funding.

His second goal for the institution was achieved just recently when West Virginia State College attained university status and is now named West Virginia State University. The university stands as a testament to the goals set forth for the designation of land-grant institutions and as a historically black college that successfully serves a diverse student population.

Since settling in West Virginia, Dr. Carter has become an important figure in his community and the surrounding Charleston area. His civic duties, volunteer causes, and boards he serves are too countless to mention. He has been honored as a Distinguished West Virginian by former governors and was named "President of the Century" by West Virginia State College (University) National Alumni Association. He currently serves as a member of President Bush's Board of Advisers for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor, my friend and former colleague, Dr. Hazo William Carter, Jr. for all his achievements in the field of higher education and for his service to the people of West Virginia.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY V.  
KASER

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mary V. Kaser, who served the residents of West Park for thirty-eight years as a school crossing guard. Over the years, Mary developed many wonderful re-

lationships with the families of her community. The people of West Park will always have a place in their hearts for this quick-witted woman, who was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Mary embodied what community is all about. In addition to protecting hundreds of children, she took on the role of Democratic Ward Club president and helped found the Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation. Community members recount that Mary was a spirited woman with a heart of gold. Always in the thick of the action, this vibrant woman left a mark on Ohio that will never fade away.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life of Mary V. Kaser, whose memory will be cherished by all who had the fortune of knowing her.

THOMAS DAVID ADAMS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas David Adams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas David Adams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF  
SERGEANT ERIC D. COTTRELL

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, SSG Eric D. Cottrell, a native of Pittsview, Alabama, was killed during an IED attack on August 13th in Qayyarah, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Cottrell was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and the gratitude our country feels for his service. Eric, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our nation. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT  
JOHNSTOWN 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
AND PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURA-  
TION

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise before the House to congratulate the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) as it celebrates its 80th anniversary and inaugurates its fifth president, Dr. Jem Spectar. In announcing Dr. Spectar's appointment, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg offered, "Dr. Spectar is a visionary leader and a celebrated teacher with the skills and experience necessary to build effectively upon the strengths of our Johnstown campus and to enrich the lives of students, faculty, staff and administration."

Officially founded in 1927, UPJ was first established in a wing of Johnstown Senior High School. A growing number of G.I. Bill students made it necessary for the college to relocate in 1946 to the Cyprus Avenue Elementary School. In the 1960s, the college and community led a drive to relocate UPJ from downtown Johnstown to its current location in Richland Township, a 635-acre wooded area with, initially, six academic buildings, a library, a student union-physical education complex and five residence halls.

The current campus was dedicated by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower in September 1967, almost 40 years to the day after UPJ first set up operations in Johnstown Senior High School. The campus has come a long way in 80 years. UPJ now boasts some 2,700 full-time and 450 part-time students, 70 student organizations, 143 faculty, 210 staff, nearly 40 campus buildings and more than 15,000 alumni.

Again, I offer my congratulations to UPJ for reaching the milestone of its 80th anniversary. I am confident that this excellent educational institution will continue to be a vital asset to the region for another 80 years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE BUILDING  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF  
NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Building Industry Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the members of which are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

From humble beginnings a half century ago, this group, the first of its kind in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the ninth largest among 39 similar groups across the State, has committed itself to professionalism and consumer advocacy.

At 450 members, the BIA today continues a tradition established by its founders to represent the interests of those associated with the building industry and to provide a source

of information and protection for those seeking quality, affordable housing.

Peter Restaino, the president of the BIA, is committed to honoring the group's origins and to connect current members with that proud tradition. He has directed Matthew Hodorowski, a former BIA president, to compile a history of the organization that will be shared with those participating in the anniversary celebration to be held at the historic Wilkes-Barre Westmoreland Club.

Mr. Restaino has stated that the BIA's focus has been to consistently represent the interests of the building community and to assure an adequate supply of quality housing at fair prices across northeastern Pennsylvania.

Services provided by the BIA include education, a group insurance program and sharing information about the interests of members with all levels of government.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Building Industry Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania for 50 years of service to the people of northeastern Pennsylvania. Their commitment to the principles of professionalism, tradesmanship and honorable business practices has earned them an enviable reputation throughout the northeastern Pennsylvania region.

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IN CELEBRATION OF RAMADAN  
AND THE IFTAR CEREMONY

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**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, and to celebrate the Community Iftar held by the Council on American-Islamic Relations of Ohio.

In the Muslim tradition, the month of Ramadan is one of contemplation and spirituality. Muslims throughout Northeast Ohio and the world endeavor to deepen their individual faith and grow as a community. Muslims do this through conscious efforts to refrain from thoughts and actions that would stunt their spiritual growth. They also read the entire Qur'an.

Muslims also bring themselves closer to this spiritual ideal through their observance of the Sawm, or fast. The Sawm is a cleansing and invigorating practice that renews the spirit. To break the fast and make a renewed commitment to their family and community, Muslims gather for the Iftar dinner. Keeping with the intention of the holiday, the Iftar is an opportunity for spiritual growth in the continued pursuit of peace and understanding.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating Ramadan. As Muslims throughout Northeast Ohio gather for CAIR's Community Iftar, I wish them all peace and happiness on their spiritual journey.

IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S APPLI-  
CATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN  
THE UNITED NATIONS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, in his 2004 State of the Union Address, President Bush said, "I believe that God has planted in every human heart the desire to live in freedom. And even when that desire is crushed by tyranny for decades, it will rise again."

For decades, the people of Taiwan have been living under the tyranny of Chinese repression of their rights to join world bodies and engage in peaceful relations with the international community. Taiwan and the government of President Chen Shui-bian are continuing their pursuit for more than a decade to achieve a seat at the table of the United Nations. However, they have run into obstacles from the UN Secretary General.

For several years, tensions in the Taiwan straits have been escalating due to China's refusal to give up using military force against Taiwan. China has deployed tactical missiles along its coast aimed at Taiwan. In addition the Anti-Secession Act passed by China in 2005 has increased tensions in the straits. These actions have left the people of Taiwan searching for a means of peacefully resolving their differences. One of the world's foremost bodies for resolving differences and promoting peace in the world is of course, the United Nations. Given China's acts of aggression towards Taiwan, it should come as little surprise that the government in Taipei is now turning towards the peacekeeping body for membership.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Secretary General will reconsider his position on Taiwan's membership to this international body dedicated to maintaining a peaceful world. Taiwan must be allowed to join this body to protect its political and economic development, as well as, its peace and security. Acceptance of Taiwan into the United Nations will allow the two governments to work with the international community on equal and neutral terms to resolve the tensions in the Taiwan Strait. The United States has much to gain from a demilitarized Taiwan Strait. UN membership for Taiwan can help U.S. and Taiwanese interests. I wholeheartedly support this application for United Nations membership.

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CONOR FREDERICK KILLEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Conor Frederick Killen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Conor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Conor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Conor Frederick Killen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO BERLIN  
FIFE AND DRUM CORPS ON 225  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Berlin Fife and Drum Corps on reaching its 225th year of service. The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps is the oldest continuous Fife and Drum Corps in the nation.

Better known to veterans as "The Frosty Suns of Thunder," the Corps is a band from Berlin, Pennsylvania that performs for military support groups and participates in various parades. They play traditional martial music dating back to the Revolutionary War, and more recently have added military medleys to their performances.

The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps was founded by George Johnson, who joined the Revolutionary Army in 1777 and served as a fifer for 3 years, and later returned to Berlin, afterwards forming the Corps. The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps were expert musicians who invigorated their audiences and were often greeted with enthusiastic cries of "Here comes Berlin!"

In addition to performing in parades, the Corps decorated American flags and placed them on the graves of war veterans in the Allegheny region. In 1887 they began the tradition of playing at memorial services at the Mount Lebanon Cemetery and the Berlin I.O.O.F. Cemetery. This tradition is carried on today.

Membership in the Berlin Fife and Drum Corps is a long and celebrated tradition in Berlin. Several members have proudly served for over 40 years. The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps is a striking example of patriotism and is a source of pride for the Allegheny region. I, along with members of the Berlin community, would like to thank the Corps for their service and enthusiasm, and congratulate them on continuing this tradition for 225 years.

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TRIBUTE TO RICK DIEGEL

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rick Diegel. Rick is the Political and Legislative Director for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and is retiring at the end of this month.

Rick Diegel exemplifies the best in an American worker and advocate for the American worker. He has been an electrician and member of his union for 37 years. After rising to the position of Business Agent for IBEW Local Union 278 in Corpus Christi, Texas, Rick Diegel left his Texas home in 1983 to accept



a job with his international office. Over the last 24 years in Washington, DC, Rick has risen to the position of Legislative and Political Director of the IBEW.

When discussing a matter before Congress, one got an education from Rick Diegel. You knew you were listening to someone who came, as Rick has often said, "out of the tools." Having worked and gained experience at every level, Rick did not let the issues of Washington, DC affect his vision and mission of helping American laborers. For Rick, the only question was and remains: 'Is this good for IBEW members?' And those members are electricians in the construction industry, they are utility workers, railroad workers, telecommunication workers, broadcast and government workers.

His easy manner and ready smile could break the tension in any room, but those who know him best never made the mistake of underestimating his passion and his commitment to the matter at hand. He has been on the front line for a very long time and he will be missed. I wish Rick a long and happy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARMEN "THE  
ONION PICKER" BASILIO

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize boxing Champion and Central New York native Carmen Basilio as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his World Middleweight Championship.

Basilio was born on April 27, 1927 in Canastota, New York. The son of an onion farmer, he spent many hours of his childhood working with his father on their farm, which led to his boxing nickname "the onion picker". Carmen became a professional boxer in 1948, after being honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps.

Basilio became the New York State welterweight champion in 1953 and defended that title in 1954. On June 10, 1955 Carmen defeated Tony DeMarco in a 12 round bout to win the World Welterweight title. A rematch was held on November 30th of that same year, and Basilio defended his title, after breaking his left hand earlier in the match, by knocking out DeMarco in the 12th round. Basilio would hold the World Welterweight Title until March 14, 1956 when he lost to Johnny Saxton. Never one to give up, Basilio regained the title on September 12, 1956 by defeating Saxton in a rematch. He remained the World Welterweight Champion until he vacated the role to fight in the World Middleweight Championship on September 23, 1957.

Fifty years ago this month on September 23, 1957, Carmen Basilio challenged World Middleweight Champion Sugar Ray Robinson for the title. The fight, which took place at Yankee Stadium, is known as one of the most action packed fights of the decade. Even though he was smaller in size and reach, Basilio defeated Robinson in a 15 round decision to become the World Middleweight Champion. Basilio would relinquish his championship back to Robinson in a rematch six months later, and would twice unsuccessfully

try to regain it back. He won two more fights before hanging up his boxing gloves in 1961. Carmen was named fighter of the year in 1955 and 1957, and would finish his career with 56 wins, 17 losses, 7 draws, and 27 knockouts.

Although he left his fighting days behind him, Basilio still remained involved in athletics. He served as a physical education instructor at Le Moyne College and remained very involved in Central New York boxing.

In 1982 the citizens of Canastota wanted to pay tribute to their hometown fighter and did so by erecting a bronze statue of Basilio. The excitement of the statue led to the building of the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, which was completed in 1989. Basilio was inducted in 1990 and continues to be a frequent visitor and volunteer at the Hall of Fame.

Carmen Basilio was a boxer, but perhaps even more, he was a fighter. Even in losses Basilio never gave up. He always fought with perseverance, passion, and heart which earned him great respect beyond wins and losses. I am proud to stand up and honor this man—who has served as an inspiration to so many from Central New York—on the 50th anniversary of his Middleweight Championship. As his International Boxing Hall of Fame biography says, "his tough gritty style not only won him world titles, but it was the heart and desire he displayed in the ring that won him a place in the hearts of 1950's boxing fans."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I missed recorded votes due to official business in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted the following: "yea" on H. Res. 257, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, rollcall No. 865; "yea" on H. Res. 643, the resolution commemorating September 11, rollcall No. 866.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HBCU  
WEEK

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate National Historically Black Colleges and Universities week, which took place the second week of September. It is a pleasure to recognize HBCUs because, had it not been for a historically Black college, I would not be here today. Not only have HBCUs made a positive impact on and provided a rich heritage to me and my family's lives, they lay a foundation for many men and women of color.

At the age of 16, I left home to attend what was then Arkansas A&M College at Pine Bluff, later named the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Following in my footsteps were six of my siblings, three nephews, one niece, and a half dozen first cousins. As an HBCU alumnus, I

share a history with many notable and honored leaders within our country. W.E.B. Du Bois, who is considered the father of sociology due to his thesis called "Study of the Philadelphia Negro," attended Fisk University in Nashville, TN. The education and training that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., received at Morehouse College, located in Atlanta, GA, surely worked together with his experiences in the Black church to develop his incredible eloquence and keen analysis of social problems. Thurgood Marshall, the first Black Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, attended Lincoln University in Chester, PA, which is known as the first historically Black college founded in 1854.

As an HBCU graduate, I know firsthand the needs and values of these institutions. This is why I am especially proud that during this HBCU week, Congress can say it provided \$170 million in grants for HBCUs over the next 5 years via the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. All 99 HBCUs that currently receive Federal funds will benefit from these new resources to strengthen their capacity to continue the tradition of developing Black talent into leadership. Indeed, I benefit from the leaders produced by these institutions given that at least four members of my staff had the privilege of attending an HBCU.

HBCUs are not only necessary for individuals who come from certain economic backgrounds, they contain a great deal of history and culture. The College Cost Reduction Act will enhance our ability to keep these institutions alive and vibrant. I am pleased that we can celebrate these new resources during this recent HBCU week.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS  
MONTGOMERY

**HON. STEVAN PEARCE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to recognize the Curtis Montgomery Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2575 on its 75th anniversary and its great service to the veterans of New Mexico.

The Curtis Montgomery VFW Post #2575 was chartered in 1932 as a Congressionally chartered post. Over the last 75 years this post has been serving the veterans in the communities of Roswell, Artesia, Hondo, and surrounding areas. The post has more than 200 members, which include 100 life members. The post will soon be merging with Post #11384 in Roswell and pick up an additional 100 members.

Post #2575 celebrated its 75th anniversary on September 1, 2007 with a ceremony. The program honored dignitaries of the City who have assisted veterans in the past. Special guests included members of Task Force Cobra from the area and veterans from all over New Mexico. Michael A. Trujillo, a Chaves County Commissioner and member of Task Force Cobra, honored the Post by presenting a flag flown over Iraq during Task Force Cobra's Iraq deployment to Post Commander Mike Point. Veterans from previous conflicts including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and later conflicts displayed memorabilia, shared memories, and reflected on their shared service to our nation.



I wish to commend Post #2575 and all of its members for the great service they provide the veterans of New Mexico. Congratulations Post #2575 on 75 great years and keep up the good work.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE  
UYGHUR PEOPLE AND THE FAM-  
ILY OF REBIYA KADEER

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 497, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Rebiya Kadeer's children should be immediately released from detention, and that the Chinese Government should refrain from further persecution of the Uyghur people. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution and believe strongly that the Chinese government must be pressed on these points.

The China of today is not progressing, Madam Speaker, it is regressing. It is becoming more violent, more repressive, and more resistant to basic values of human rights and religious freedom. The Chinese government tortures and imprisons Catholic bishops, Protestant church leaders, Muslim worshipers, Falun Gong followers, and Buddhist monks and nuns just because of their faith and systematically destroys churches and confiscates Bibles. It persecutes the Uyghur people, cutting them off from the outside world as it pursues a policy of cultural liquidation.

Rebiya Kadeer is a brave soul who has stood up to this violence and repression. She has suffered so much at the hands of the Chinese Government, and yet does not recoil in fear. For her bravery, the Chinese Government has retaliated by capturing and imprisoning her children who remained behind in China. They have been held at unknown locations, interrogated, and very possibly tortured.

A couple of years ago, the FBI identified Chinese secret police following Rebiya Kadeer and spying on her at her Fairfax home. The Chinese Government will stop at nothing to silence those who oppose its brutal tactics against its own citizens.

I urge the House to adopt this resolution, and to demand that the Chinese Government cease its persecution of the Uyghur people and immediately release Rebiya Kadeer's children from detention.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
LYDIA THOMAS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lydia Thomas on the occasion of her retirement as President and CEO of Noblis Inc. in Falls Church, VA.

Dr. Thomas graduated from Howard University in 1965 with a bachelor of science in zoology. She went on to pursue a master of science in microbiology from American University in 1971, and later, returned to Howard to earn a doctor of philosophy in cytology.

Dr. Thomas began her career with the MITRE Corporation in 1973. While at MITRE, she held a variety of technical and management positions in the areas of energy, environment, health, and communications systems. In 2002, she was appointed by President Bush to serve as a founding member of the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council. Dr. Thomas was elected to the Council on Foreign Relations that same year. In 2005, she chaired the Homeland Security Advisory Council's Task Force on Preventing the Entry of Weapons of Mass Effects on U.S. Soil.

On the State level, Dr. Thomas was appointed to the Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Commission by Governor George Allen, and then for a second term by Governor Mark Warner. Active in her local community, Dr. Thomas is a member of the Superintendent's Business/Industry Advisory Council for Fairfax County Public Schools, a trustee of the INOVA Health System, and a member of the Northern Virginia Health Force.

Dr. Thomas is the recipient of numerous awards throughout her career, including the 1986 TWIN Award by the Young Women's Christian Association; the 1990 "Ebony" Image Award by the Coalition of 100 Black Women; the Deans' Award at the 1991 Black Engineer of the Year Conference; and one of the 50 Most Important Blacks in Research Science in 2004.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I applaud Dr. Lydia Thomas on a distinguished career dedicated to ensuring the national security and environmental health of our Nation. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Thomas on her retirement and wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ALTA MIRA CLUB

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Alta Mira Club on its 100th anniversary. The Alta Mira Club is a philanthropic project established on December 9, 1907, to benefit women and children. The club is located in the City of San Leandro, CA, and has been creating a positive impact in that community over the past century.

The Alta Mira Club's 60 charter members became a part of the California Federation of Women's Clubs on January 13, 1908, with the adoption of a constitution, bylaws, and elected officers. The Club later joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, headquartered in Washington, DC, on February 9, 1912.

The Alta Mira Club has a rich history. The members participated in the Suffragette movement and held classes for women on "how to vote", helped furnish and plant the grounds of the first San Leandro City library, and planted palm trees in the City, while also continuously engaging in other community, philanthropic, educational, scholarship, and social activities.

The Club purchased the Ygnacio Peralta Home in 1926, receiving California Historical landmark bronze plaque number 285 in 1949. In 1978, the Ygnacio Peralta Home was placed on the national register in Washington, DC. The membership of the Alta Mira Club is the sole support of the clubhouse, where

members continue the tradition of providing musical entertainment, poetry, and lectures as a part of its programs.

I congratulate the Alta Mira Club on their 100th anniversary of excellent service to the community, their many accomplishments, and their continued support of civic projects and programs.

HONORING DOTTIE JOHNSON

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson, a passionate and dedicated leader both in Michigan and at the national level in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. I am proud to say that Dottie and her family reside in my district, yet spread their passion for philanthropy, volunteerism and nonprofit initiatives throughout the country. She is truly an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Johnson's list of accomplishments is long and impressive. Each has significantly impacted individuals and communities on a myriad of levels.

For 25 years she served as the Council of Michigan Foundations, the Nation's largest associations of grant makers and has created other regional associations of grant makers in the United States and overseas.

A significant amount of Ms. Johnson's energy has been focused on our country's youth. She founded the Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project, involving more than 1,500 high school youth in philanthropy annually in Michigan and now an international movement in more than 38 States and 18 countries. She created Learning to Give, an internationally used Internet resource of more than 800 teacher-prepared and tested lesson plans on giving and the nonprofit sector for K-12 education.

She founded the Michigan AIDS Fund, the oldest statewide private response to HIV/AIDS in the Nation. She also initiated a number of other statewide efforts, including the Michigan Community Service Commission and Michigan Nonprofit Association.

The list of awards bestowed upon Ms. Johnson is yet another indication of the level of her dedication and success with which she pursued her work. She is the recipient of the Distinguished Grantmaker Award from the Council on Foundations—the highest award from the Nation's leading association on philanthropy. She is also the recipient of the Women of Achievement and Courage Award from the Michigan Women's Foundation.

She serves as a trustee on the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek and serves as a trustee of Grand Valley State University, which is now home to the Dorothy A. Johnson Center on Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. She has served on numerous national boards, such as Independent Sector—the voice for the Nation's Nonprofit Sector.

Ms. Johnson retires this month as a trustee of the Corporation for National and Community Service, where she served since 1998, and has the distinction of having been nominated by both Presidents Bush and Clinton. As a former Chairman of the Oversight subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Corporation, I can say firsthand that she is a wise and

trusted counsel. She was the architect of significant grant process reform and program policy reform at the Corporation and a leader on AmeriCorps rulemaking.

Madam Speaker, Dottie Johnson has led a long and distinguished career deserving of the recognition of the U.S. House of Representatives. Please allow me to submit my remarks for the RECORD.

HONORING DR. KATHY KINLEY

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on November 27, 2007, the California School Boards Association, along with over 3,000 school board members from across the state, will gather to honor Dr. Kathy Kinley and her ongoing efforts to improve life and education for our children.

As a product of the California school system, Dr. Kinley has become a prestigious member of our community holding a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of La Verne. Before earning her doctorate, she received a bachelor's degree in English and political science from San Diego State University and a master's degree in school administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

Dr. Kinley has played a multifaceted leadership role in our school districts. Kathy began her career with the California Education System as a teacher and later went on to serve as principal of De Anza Middle School in San Bernardino County's Ontario-Montclair School District. Along with participating in the classroom, she has also dedicated herself as an active member of CSBA's Delegate Assembly since 1984 and CSBA's Board of Directors since 1996 serving on a number of committees including the Budget Committee, the Legislative Committee and the Federal Issues Council.

As President of CSBA, Dr. Kinley has committed herself to closing the education achievement gap that creates a barrier for many Latino, black, American Indian, and underprivileged youth in our California school districts. She has embraced a mission to ensure the futures of all children and has pushed schools to encourage students to aspire above their circumstances, so that they too might become incredible leaders. Along with her colleagues, Dr. Kinley sees the incredible resource that lies in the hands of our children and has dedicated her life and career to ensuring that the resource of our younger generation is protected and cultivated.

There is no question of why such an incredible leader was honored with the title of Woman of the Year by the Kudos for Kids Foundation during their 61st annual Amazing Woman Award assembly. Dr. Kinley has made a direct impact on the lives of millions of teachers, students, and families. Our communities have benefited and will continue to see the fruits of her labor unfold. Because of her passion and talent more students will have a chance to achieve their dreams because of her belief that all students deserve an open door to educational excellence. She has made headway in closing a gap that before seemed like an insurmountable goal.

It is for relentless dedication, perseverance, passion, and visionary leadership that we recognize, with great gratitude, Dr. Kathy Kinley for today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 9/11  
HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, with my good friends Representatives NADLER, FOSSELLA and 44 other original cosponsors, I am pleased to introduce the comprehensive, bipartisan 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, to finally provide health care and compensation to the heroes and heroines of 9/11.

The collapse of the World Trade Center towers took nearly three thousand lives in an instant and released a massive cloud of asbestos, pulverized concrete, and other poisons. To those toxins, we now know that thousands more have lost their health.

Now 6 years later, more than 6,500 responders—truly the heroes and heroines of 9/11—are being treated for 9/11-related health problems through the federally-funded World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment program, and more than 4,500 have been referred for mental health care, often for conditions like post traumatic stress syndrome. Every month, another 500–1000 responders sign up for health monitoring, and those coming in are more sick than ever before.

Separately, more than 70,000 Americans reported to the World Trade Center Health Registry. While most are from New York, New Jersey or Connecticut, more than 10,000 Americans from outside the Tri-State area have also registered. Amazingly, every single state has someone in the World Trade Center registry. This is a health emergency on a national scale and it requires a strong federal response.

Last Saturday, I joined New York AFL-CIO President Dennis Hughes, and Representative NADLER and FOSSELLA at a labor rally at Ground Zero to announce the bill we are introducing today. The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act will ensure that everyone exposed to the Ground Zero toxins has a right to be medically monitored and all who are sick as a result have a right to treatment. It will build on the expertise of the Centers of Excellence, which are currently providing high-quality care to thousands of responders and ensuring on-going data collection and analysis. Expanding care to the entire exposed community, the bill also includes care for area residents, workers, and school children as well as the thousands of people that came from across the country to assist with the recovery and clean-up efforts. Finally, the bill provides compensation for economic damages and loss by reopening the September 11 Victims Compensation Fund.

I thank Chairman PALLONE of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health for holding an important hearing tomorrow on answering the call to provide medical monitoring and treatment to World Trade Center responders. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Judiciary Committee and the lead-

ership as we move this important legislation forward. It is critical that we show our first responders that, after rushing in to serve New York and the Nation in a time of great disaster, we will not desert them in their time of need. It is the least we can do, as a grateful Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 9/11  
HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, when the World Trade Center collapsed on September 11, 2001, the towers sent up a plume of poisonous dust that blanketed Lower Manhattan. A toxic brew of lead, dioxin, asbestos, mercury, benzene, and other hazardous contaminants swirled around the site of the disaster as rescue workers labored furiously in the wreckage, many without adequate protective gear. Thousands of first responders, residents, area workers, students, and others from around the country inhaled this poisonous dust as it settled onto and into countless homes, shops, and office buildings.

Now, 6 years later, there is no doubt that thousands of people are sick from World Trade Center contamination. A study released in September 2006 by Mt. Sinai Hospital found that 70 percent of the more than 9,000 first responders studied suffer health problems related to their work at Ground Zero. This number does not include the Stuyvesant High School students whose school sat near piles of debris from the towers, the nearby residents whose apartments still contain poisonous dust, or the thousands of people who work in offices that were never properly cleaned.

Abraham Lincoln once said that we must "care for him who shall have borne the battle." And so we should. Today, I, along with my colleagues, am introducing essential, new legislation that ensures that everyone exposed to World Trade Center toxins, no matter where they may live now or in the future, would have a right to high-quality medical monitoring and treatment, and access to a reopened Victim Compensation Fund for their losses. Whether you are a first responder who toiled without proper protection; or an area resident, worker or student who was caught in the plume or subject to ongoing indoor contamination; if you were harmed by 9/11, you would be eligible. This bill builds on the best ideas brought to Congress thus far and on the infrastructure already in place providing critical treatment and monitoring.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 9/11  
HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, last Tuesday was the sixth anniversary of 9/11, and it is time to reaffirm our commitment to "Never Forget."

What many here in Washington have forgotten is that a silent killer to this day is still taking the lives of the rescue, recovery, and

clean-up workers and volunteers who were at ground zero. All of them, in addition to those who worked, lived, and went to school in lower Manhattan, breathed the toxic air created by the destruction of the towers, and many of them are suffering tragically from the health effects.

A New York City Health Department study shows an increased incidence of asthma for those who worked the pile, and a Department of Health and Human services study shows that illnesses as a result of exposure to 9/11 toxins are on the rise.

As this problem grows, progress on coming to a solution can be measured only in small steps rather than giant leaps as critical needs continue to be unmet after 6 years.

My colleagues and I have worked across party lines fighting for health monitoring for all who were exposed, adequate funding to treat those who are sick or injured and a comprehensive federal plan to ensure that anyone impacted by 9/11 gets the care he or she deserves.

We have had some successes, such as including \$50 million for federally-funded 9/11 health clinics in the Labor HHS appropriations bill to ensure that the unsung heroes of 9/11 have access to the care they need.

This is a step in the right direction, and we need to keep the momentum going. That's why I have worked across party lines with my colleagues, including Congresswoman MALONEY, to develop legislation we are offering today to address several key areas to help our heroes who are sick now as well as anyone who falls ill in the future. The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act provides comprehensive medical monitoring and treatment for those who were exposed to Ground Zero toxins and compensation for the sick and injured. The bill goes further than any effort to date by expanding monitoring and treatment to all who were exposed, including responders, residents, workers, and students in the area. It also makes good on our promise to reopen the Victims Compensation Fund to help those who fell ill over the past 3 years.

I applaud the work of my colleagues for coming together to help those whose health is in danger because of exposure to ground zero on that fateful day. I pledge my full support of these efforts as we move forward, because I truly affirm to "Never Forget."

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS  
ANTHONY GUIDICE

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. Velázquez. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the life of Thomas A. Guidice, a devoted public servant, and lifetime resident of the Greenpoint-Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn who passed away earlier this year. Throughout my career, I had the pleasure of witnessing Thomas' extraordinary service to his country and community. He is truly deserving of the highest praise.

Thomas was born in 1927 in Greenpoint, where he would live for the majority of his life. After serving his country in World War II, he married his beloved wife Millie and settled in

his hometown, where he would continue to serve his local community and country by joining the New York City Police Department. Throughout his long career his enthusiasm for the community remained unwavering, and he was an active supporter of a number of local organizations. One of his greatest passions was his role as President of the Conselyea Street Block Association, where he brightened the lives of neighborhood seniors and children and worked to secure employment opportunities for local residents. Thomas remained a dedicated and compassionate leader, striving tirelessly to create a strong sense of community, and making a point to visit with local children and seniors each day, even during his final years.

Thomas will be missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He is survived by his two loving children, Thomas Jr., and Rosemarie, and by many extended family members and friends. In recognition of Thomas' great contributions to Greenpoint-Williamsburg Brooklyn, the corner of Ainslie Street and Manhattan Avenue was renamed "Thomas Guidice Way," ensuring that his legacy will not be forgotten.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor the years of public service and contributions of Thomas A. Guidice in Greenpoint-Williamsburg Brooklyn, NY.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEWARK  
EAGLES

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives a special celebration which took place in my hometown of Newark, NJ. The pride of our city, the great Newark Eagles, were honored in a series of events coordinated by the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee on September 13th and 14th, 2007.

During the 2-day celebration, there was a dedication of a plaque and street sign at the site of Ruppert Stadium, home of the Newark Eagles and the old Newark Bears baseball teams. Also featured was the dedication of a plaque at the one-time home and office of Effa Manley, co-owner and business manager of the Eagles. She was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame as the first woman to receive this honor. She worked hard to ensure that Negro League ballplayers and owners received fair compensation for their services during the integration era.

The celebration recognized the Newark Eagles for their tremendous contribution to the city of Newark. The historic Negro League baseball team was remembered as former Eagle players Billy Felder, Red Moore, and Curley Williams discussed their experiences with former Newark Eagles and New York Giants star Monte Irvin along with sportswriter Phil Pepe and sports columnist Jerry Izenberg. The two have recently published a book entitled *Few and Chosen: Defining Negro League Greatness*.

From 1936–1948, the Newark Eagles, owned by Abe and Effa Manley, played at

Ruppert Stadium in the Ironbound section representing the Negro National League. The Newark Eagles were an important source of entertainment and civic pride for Newark's African American community and for the city as a whole. In addition, many players on the team including co-founder Effa Manley, attained historical credit for their pioneering contributions to the Negro League and baseball in general.

A plaque placed at the Newark Housing Authority Cottage Place Development on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and West Kinney Street honors the team. In that location, there are now streets and lanes named after the Newark Eagles and several of its players, including Ray Dandridge, Leon Day, Larry Doby, Monte Irvin, Terris McDuffie, Don Newcombe, and Lenny Pearson. Eight members of the Newark Eagles have been elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, as a resident of the city of Newark and a fan of baseball, I am honored that a celebration for the Negro Leagues Newark Eagles was held in my district, highlighting their success in baseball and their contributions to the community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANTHONY S.  
FAUCI

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great patriot, I dedicated public servant, and passionate pioneer whose contributions to scientific discovery and public health have improved the health of millions throughout the world: Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Yesterday, the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation announced the selection of Dr. Fauci to receive the Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service. Dr. Fauci is being honored in recognition of his leadership in engineering two major U.S. governmental programs addressing HIV and biodefense.

The Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service is awarded biannually in recognition of extraordinary achievements. Mary Lasker is widely recognized for her singular contribution to the growth of the National Institutes of Health, and her strong commitment to eradicate disease and disability through medical research. Dr. Fauci's commitment to this Nation through his accomplished career reflects well on this award's namesake.

Since coming to the National Institutes of Health in 1968, Dr. Fauci has pushed the frontiers of scientific discovery in the field of immunology. In 1980, Dr. Fauci was named Chief of the Laboratory of Immunoregulation, a position he continues to hold. Four years later, Dr. Fauci was named Director of NIAID, where he oversees an extensive research program to prevent, diagnose, and treat infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections, influenza, tuberculosis, malaria, and illnesses from potential agents of bioterrorism. Over the years, Dr. Fauci has been an excellent steward of this multi-billion dollar investment in infectious disease research.

Dr. Fauci has served for over 20 years as a key advisor to the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services on global AIDS issues, and on initiatives to bolster medical and public health preparedness to fight against emerging threats of infectious disease. He has assisted four Presidents in shaping the research priorities and public health demands of these formidable challenges.

Dr. Fauci has made enormous contributions to basic and clinical research. In 2003, an Institute for Scientific Information study indicated that over 20 years, Dr. Fauci was the 13th most-cited scientist among close to 3 million international authors in all disciplines. He has made seminal contributions to the understanding of the AIDS virus, and he has been instrumental in developing effective therapy strategies for those afflicted with this disease.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no individual more deserving of this recognition than Dr. Fauci. I am pleased to join with my colleagues and a grateful Nation in extending congratulations to Dr. Anthony Fauci for this well-deserved honor and thanking him for his unwavering commitment to scientific discovery and his role in spearheading the efforts to combat disease and undermine the threat of bioterrorism.

#### THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST 2007

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2007*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege, with my colleague, Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, of co-chairing the 55th Annual National Prayer Breakfast, held here in our Nation's Capital on February 2, 2007. This annual gathering is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups. Once again, we were honored to have the participation of our President and the First Lady and we were inspired by the remarks shared by Dr. Francis Collins.

This year we hosted a gathering of over 3,500 individuals from all walks of life in all 50 States and from many countries around the world. So that all may benefit from this time together, on behalf of the Congressional Committee for the National Prayer Breakfast, I would like to request that a copy of the program and of the transcript of the 2007 proceedings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

55TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2007, HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

CO-CHAIRS: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JO ANN DAVIS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE EMANUEL CLEAVER, II

U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II: My name is Emanuel Cleaver, and today my job will deviate slightly from what I do during the week. During the week I serve as the Fifth District Representative of Missouri. I am also a United Methodist pastor. Today I would like for all of you, if you would, to please either get out a checkbook or—(Laughter)

No, I'm serious. In seminary they taught us when you have a crowd this large, you

take up an offering. We may wait—but you don't seem enthusiastic. It is my honor and pleasure to serve today as chair of the 55th National Prayer Breakfast. My co-chair and dear friend, Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis of Virginia, will not be able to join us today, and please keep in mind that if you have a great experience today at this prayer breakfast, it is due in no small part to the work that she has done in preparing for this day. And hopefully she will join us next week with her work in Washington.

One of the basic truths of the Holy Writ is one that all of us can relate to and perhaps are familiar with—you will reap what you sow. You don't plant corn and expect soybeans. You don't plant an apple seed and expect a pear tree. A nation that sows anger will reap bitterness and division. But a nation or a collection of nations that sow love and understanding will reap a harvest of peace. That is what we are doing here today—sowing the seeds of civility in this city, in our country, and in our world. There is nothing more important for us to do. The ground is already covered with weeds and plants of discord. So today we are going to begin to plant flowers. The best way I know to do that is with prayer. If you will, please, put your food down, which you shouldn't have begun to eat—(Laughter)

If you are the person at your table who did wait for the blessing, please express to the others your spiritual superiority. (Laughter) Let us pray.

Almighty and loving God, we are gathered here today from all over the world to say thank you for your love, your grace, your mercy. We confess, God, that our world is not as you intended, and we have contributed to the wrongness of the world because of our own sins and errors. But Lord, we know the truth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, that humankind is "caught in an inescapable network of mutuality." When any of us suffers injustice, we are all diminished. But in the same way, when anyone finds peace, we will all benefit.

Bless, oh Lord, what is said and sung and planted in the hearts of all who share this experience today, that we can make this world more of a garden of your love, and if we are able to do anything good and great from this prayer breakfast today, we're going to give you all of the credit, all the glory and all the honor. In your name and for your sake we pray, Amen.

As the former mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, I know that our cities are the rubber of our democracy, and I also know that there are only a couple of positions in this country superior to serving as mayor—the presidency, obviously, and the Senate, of course. (Laughter)

Of course the Senate.

But serving as a mayor of one of our major cities places us on center stage of the municipal drama. We are very pleased today to have with us, for welcome, the mayor of Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian Fenty. (Applause)

Mayor Adrian Fenty: Thank you very much, Congressman Cleaver, for your generous introduction and hosting everyone here today. Members of Congress, governors, mayors, religious leaders, President and First Lady, it is appropriate for me as mayor, especially mayor of the District of Columbia, to start out this prayer breakfast. Congressman Cleaver, as a mayor, said it would be okay if I asked you all to say a prayer for me, because it is going to snow today. (Laughter)

Start out by asking that all of our snow plows work here in the District of Columbia.

At a time when we have gathered with so many influential people, I will reflect on one prayer, and that is Solomon's prayer for in-

fluence. When Solomon said to God, make me famous—and all of us politicians and public servants are famous in our own jurisdictions—Solomon said, I want you to spread the fame of my name and give me power and blessings and make me well known. When people read that first passage they say, why would Solomon ask such a self-serving thing? Like all other prayers, you have to read on. Further on in Solomon's prayer, he says to give him these things so that the king may support the widow and the orphans, defend the defenseless, care for the sick, assist the poor, and to speak up for the oppressed, the immigrants and the foreigners.

And while we are all influential and powerful, as we start out this great prayer breakfast, it is important that we remember what influence is supposed to be used for, and the purpose of influence as Solomon taught us is to speak up for those who have no influence.

Let's have a great prayer breakfast and let's use our power for those who need it the most. God bless you. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Rep. Cleaver: Thank you, Mayor, for welcoming us to your city.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the folks seated here at the head table. All of you cannot follow directions, so—(Laughter) I would really like for you to applaud after all of those at the head table are introduced, but since some of you can't do it, if you would just applaud now. (Applause)

Thank you.

To my left is the Reverend Dan and Kathy Mucci of Glen Burnie, Maryland. My co-chair, Jo Ann Davis, is not here, but she once worked with Pastor Mucci's congregation as the church secretary. He will offer a prayer for the nation in just awhile. You have already met Mayor Fenty. And next to him is the most important person in the room, it is my wife for more than 30 years, Diane Cleaver.

On the other side of the podium here is Dr. Francis Collins, our keynote speaker who I will introduce more fully later. Next to him, representing our nation's governors, many of whom have events just like this in their own states around the country, is Governor Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota. He will be offering a prayer later for world leaders. Next we have one of my distinguished colleagues from the House of Representatives, Allyson Schwartz, who represents the 13th district in Pennsylvania. She will be sharing a reading from the Talmud. Then we have people here from the Lower House, the United States Senate—(Laughter)

Senator Mark Pryor of Arkansas, and Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming and his spouse Diana. The senators will bring a greeting from their weekly prayer breakfast group, from which this whole event sprang more than 50 years ago.

Finally we have our singer, Nicole Mullen, and her spouse David.

Now join me in thanking the head table. (Applause)

Despite all the awards she has won and all the famous venues that she has performed in, Nicole Mullen just wants to be known as everyday people—it's not going to work, however. The title of her best-selling album is "Everyday People." She has amazing musical talent which she uses with a loving servant's heart all over the world. Ladies and gentlemen, Nicole Mullen (Applause)

(Song: "On My Knees") (Applause)

U.S. Representative Allyson Schwartz: Good morning. I am very pleased to be here and share in this fellowship this morning. I am Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to be here this morning. (Applause)

A few Pennsylvanians in the crowd.

I sometimes believe that my first memory was when I was barely 3 and my father left for the Korean War. I can picture my mother, my older brother at 4½, my younger sister at 2, all slightly sad, not really sure why.

But I know that my father's return more than two years later, after serving in an Army MASH unit in Korea, is in fact my own real, first remembrance. I was 5 years old, I was in kindergarten, and my father came to school to get me. I remember seeing him in uniform—how unlikely to see a man in uniform at school. But what I remember most is that I did not recognize him. I didn't know him. I was a little awed, I was a little scared. I remember needing to be reassured by my older brother—who at 6½ was in fact really my older brother—that it was okay, that this man was in fact our dad.

So I know, as I watch families see their dads, and their moms, off to war, that there are tough goodbyes. And there are also the not-so-easy homecomings. That reuniting families is not easy. That our troops come home with experiences separate from their families, some good, and some very difficult. That reuniting, reconnecting, is often hard.

So for the men and women serving and returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who are struggling with changes in their work lives and changes in their home lives, and for all families who have experienced separation or loss, who have experiences that are often not revealed and difficult to communicate, but nonetheless are struggling to be as good as they can be to each other and to their children, I offer a prayer for healing, for overcoming the difficulties, for forgiveness, for feeling connected and whole again.

Today as we offer our public officials our prayers and our support, I offer this reading for all of us. The prayer I will read dates from the Talmudic period and is offered at evening and Sabbath services in synagogues across the world. It is a beautiful prayer for serenity and for protection from danger.

Lord our God, we pray thee that we may lie down this night in peace and awake in the morning to refreshed existence. Spread over us the shelter of thy divine peace and guide us with thy good counsel. Help us for thy name's sake. Be thou at all times our shield and our protector from harm, our guardian against danger, our savior from all manner of trouble and distress. Keep far from us anxiety and sorrow, and shelter us under the shadow of thy wings, for it is in thee alone, oh God, ever gracious and compassionate, that we put our trust. Guard thou our going out and our coming in, that we may live a life of peace now and evermore. Amen. (Applause)

Senator Mark Pryor: My name is Mark Pryor from Arkansas, and this is Mike Enzi from Wyoming, and we bring you greetings from the Senate prayer breakfast. Every Wednesday morning that we are in session, all senators are invited to come to the Senate prayer breakfast. It is a great time of fellowship and we have different faiths and very, very diverse backgrounds that are represented there. It is really a great way, maybe the best way, in the Senate, to get to know each other in a deeper and more meaningful way.

Another thing that we do there is, the chaplain at the beginning of every Congress hands out a prayer card that has all of the names of the senators on there, and he gives us a weekly schedule to pray for our colleagues. And my experience is, that when I am praying for my colleagues by name, any hard feelings, any bitterness, any animosity has a way of just melting away. So, we bring you greetings from the Senate prayer breakfast, and here is Mike.

Senator Michael Enzi: Mark mentioned our weekly prayer breakfasts. I want to tell you

about our global outreach. We are willing to help any parliament or group of elected leaders to start a prayer breakfast. We only participate when we are asked. We send a senator and some prayer supporters to meet anywhere the leaders seek the uniting power of the teachings of Jesus. We have seen prayer groups bring different faiths together. We have seen enemies begin to see each other as people, people with similar problems, problems solvable through the power of God used through leaders. We want to share the care, the reconciliation, the respect and concern that can unite. We want to share the concentration on the 80 percent that we all believe in rather than the 20 percent that divides people. Of course these trips of faith give each senator a gift of faith greater than what we are able to share. May each of you, through the power of God's hand, use your gifts for the betterment of God's world. (Applause)

Rep. Cleaver: Why don't you go ahead and eat. (Laughter)

Lord, bless the food that we are about to receive, and may this food do for our bodies what your Spirit does for our soul. Amen.

We will be back with you shortly. (Breakfast)

Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, and Mrs. Laura Bush. (Applause)

Rev. Daniel Mucci: Good morning, everyone. It is an awesome privilege to be here this morning to lead us in prayer for the leaders of our nation. As I was reflecting on this opportunity to pray, I am reminded of the truth that men should always pray and not give up. For we know what is impossible with men is possible with God. With these thoughts in mind, let us pray for our nation's leaders.

Almighty God, we thank you for the blessing of leadership you have provided to our nation time and time again throughout our history. We thank you for the men and women who offer themselves to serve their fellow man and seek to fulfill the higher purpose of your will here on earth as it is in heaven. For these gifts we express our gratitude.

Thank you for our president, George W. Bush, a man who seeks your face. May your presence go before him, may your peace sustain him, and your power keep him as he fulfills your call to lead our nation during this challenging time. We now lift up President Bush and his Cabinet, the members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court justices, the governors of our states and their respective general assemblies, the mayors of our cities and towns and all those charged with the responsibility to create and enforce the laws of the United States of America.

We unite our hearts in asking that you grant America's leaders the courage to stand together when tested by the winds of adversity—economically, socially, politically, and spiritually—for there is no overcoming without a struggle. So we ask that you would give them your grace to succeed in our quest for peace and progress in our nation.

We also ask that you would grant your servants wisdom to work toward unity when confusion overrides their clarity of vision for the future, for there is no unity without humility. So we humbly ask that you would grant them the mercy and love that they need to recognize and fulfill your purposes in this generation.

We ask for the determination to win the challenging battles we face, to ensure the safety and security of our citizens, and for those who call on us to be partners for democracy and peace, for there is no victory without perseverance. So we ask you to reveal to our leaders the strategic plans for

success, and to supply them with the strength to endure the perils of war.

Please protect the men and women of our military who have placed themselves in harm's way for the ideals of our nation. And finally, with the faith of Abraham, the meekness of Moses, and in the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth, give us all a servant's heart to meet the needs of those who are suffering, from poverty, hunger, or disease, when we have the resources within our influence to relieve the suffering and to bring hope and healing to our fellow human beings. We ask these things in your mighty name, Amen.

General Peter Pace: President and Mrs. Bush, and to all of you here, good morning. I am Pete Pace, and my wife Lynne and I are honored to be here with you this morning. (Applause)

Since the founding of our country, generation after generation of Americans have sacrificed themselves that we might have the freedom to gather here this morning and pray as we see fit to our God. It has been my personal experience that although some may enter battle either not believing or questioning the existence of God, that very few leave battle with any doubt. In fact in my experience, almost the first thing that those who are wounded say is, "oh my God." In answer to their prayer, often the compassion and love of God in the midst of that most difficult of times is brought forward in the form of our chaplains, who risk their own safety to bring God's love and compassion to those who need it. So it is with great respect and appreciation for our chaplains and for their assistance, for their bringing God's love to all of us daily, in battle and out, that I offer this reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, rejoice. Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord himself is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds. Finally, my brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have heard, learned, and accept it, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you." The word of the Lord. (Applause)

Governor Tim Pawlenty: Would you please bow your heads and join me in prayer for world leaders.

Lord, this morning we bow before you with humble hearts, deeply grateful that you are a God powerful enough to form the earth but gentle enough to care for our smallest concerns. You are an amazing God. We know, Lord, that you are the source of all love and that through the course of history you have poured out your love, your mercy and your grace when people have humbled themselves and prayed. It is with this spirit that we come before you this morning. As the light of the world, you have pierced through the darkness in troubled times. Lord, our world struggles. We live in troubled times. We struggle against the forces of darkness. The power of sin and alienation is strong, but you are stronger. Our world needs your healing power and your love.

Today, God, we pray for our world leaders. We pray that the power of your love will guide their decisions. Lord, we pray for your special blessing on those world leaders who are with us today, Prime Minister Musa and President Bush. We also pray for those in this room that will one day lead their nations. Prepare them also, by your grace.

God, as our world leaders face the troubles and enormous challenges of our times, we

pray Solomon-like wisdom for each of them. Touch their hearts. Heal any brokenness.

We pray that each world leader will be guided by your spirit, your leadership. Lord, bless them, teach them, counsel them, continue to love them and hold them in the powerful palm of your hand. May the leaders of this world be led by you every day, in every decision, big and small. You are the hope of the world and the ruler of history. We pray that all world leaders seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. I pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Rep. Cleaver: As you are continuing to eat your breakfast, I would like to recognize a visiting head of state who joined us today, Prime Minister Said Musa of the nation of Belize. Prime Minister. (Applause)

Thank you so much for being with us.

And while focusing on the room, I want to recognize a historic person in our midst, the first woman Speaker of the United States Congress, Nancy Pelosi of California. (Applause)

Rep. Cleaver: She had to leave. As many of you know, Father Drinan, who served in the House of Representatives, died, and she is going to attend his funeral.

For the Democrats who are in the House, who are in Congress, if you would please let her know that I did introduce her. Committee assignments have not been made. (Laughter)

If I may have your attention once again, we will continue with our program. But first let me share something with you that I read the other day that I hope all of us can remember. William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, said—and this is extremely important; if you can remember these words, I think it helps this entire nation: "I know of no religion that destroys courtesy, civility, or kindness." William Penn.

In this room today we are a people of over 160 nations and many religious traditions, but a common teaching of all faiths and philosophies is this important word civility.

I came to Washington and to Congress with this desire in my heart, to do what I could to make this a more civil place. In the intensity and tension of this place, it's really hard for me and all of us to follow the biblical teachings to count others as important as ourselves, and as far as it depends on us, we must all seek to live in peace with all.

I have opinions that are as strong as anyone. My challenge is to state them in a tone that raises the level of the conversation and honors those who disagree with me. When you look at the roots of the word "civility," to be civil is to be a citizen, a respected part of the community. So to be uncivil is to fracture the community, locally, nationally, and even internationally, and that is something none of us can afford to do.

With the passing of President Ford recently, I was reminded of a story of his days in the White House. He held regular debates here in Washington with Democratic members of Congress, but most especially with Congressman Thomas Hale Boggs, at the National Press Club. At President Ford's suggestion, they would actually share a cab downtown and pick their topic for debate on the way. Afterwards, they would often go out and eat together.

Mr. President, I am happy you are joining us for our House Democratic retreat later today. It will be good for us and good for the country to break bread together. (Applause)

Remember, we reap what we sow. I think God is pleased when we as citizens of the world, and people of faith, sow courtesy, civility and kindness with each other, and raise up a harvest of grace and peace.

Now, our keynote speaker. Some of us know the song that says, "we are fearfully and wonderfully made." Any of us who stud-

ied human anatomy in junior high biology probably felt more fear than wonder. My biology teachers were always the worst [pause] human beings (Laughter)

But I have grown to respect and appreciate the men and women of science because they unlock the secrets of how we can get more and better life out of these bodies.

Our keynote speaker this morning is one of the heroes of that effort, Dr. Francis Collins, the director of the Human Genome Project. He grew up on a little farm in Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and now he heads up the most significant scientific project in history. He supervises hundreds of researchers from different disciplines, different institutions and different countries, in the effort to map the human genome and share with the world what it means. And I know the President appreciates this fact—he is ahead of schedule and under budget. (Laughter, Applause)

He has also served as a volunteer doctor in hospitals in developing worlds. Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor for me to introduce Dr. Francis Collins. (Applause)

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.: Thank you for that very kind introduction, Congressman Cleaver.

President Bush, First Lady, heads of state, members of Congress, distinguished guests, I am deeply honored to be speaking with you on this significant and moving occasion. As you have heard, I am not a rock star, as the person who spoke last year, and that's a large leather jacket to step into—(Laughter)

I didn't say anything about the sunglasses.

I am also not a man of the cloth nor am I a political leader. As you've heard, I am a physician and a scientist, here this morning as a private citizen, but who had the incredible privilege of leading the Human Genome Project. I am also a believer in God.

The astrophysicist Robert Jastrow started his book on science and faith with the following words: "When a scientist writes about God, his colleagues assume he is either over the hill or going bonkers." I hope and pray that I am neither of those. And yet in the scientific community there is an unwritten taboo about discussing one's spiritual leanings, so many assume that scientists are generally godless materialists. That's not actually true—a recent survey found that 40% of working scientists believe in a God to whom one may pray in expectation of an answer. And that number has changed very little over the past century.

Yet there are increasingly shrill voices around us who argue that somehow the scientific and spiritual worldviews are incompatible. I am here this morning to tell you that these different ways of finding the truth are not only compatible, but they are wonderfully complementary.

As the leader of the Human Genome Project, I had the great privilege of serving as the project manager for a dedicated team of more than 2,000 scientists from six countries. Together, we determined all three billion letters of the human genome, our own DNA instruction book, and we made all that data freely available on the internet every 24 hours. It is hard to get your mind around how much information this is—three billion is a very big number, even in Washington. (Laughter)

Suppose we decided to take a little time this morning to read the letters of the human genome together, just to express our awe at God's creation. If we could take turns reading, and we would agree to stick to it until we were all done, and we would read at a reasonable pace, A-C-G-T-T-G-C-A-A—there are only four letters in the DNA alphabet, that makes it a little easier but a little monotonous. (Laughter)

If we all decided that was worth doing, and we even decided that we would stay up all

night if it was necessary, we would stay up a lot of nights. We would be here for 31 years. You have all that information inside each cell of your body. And every time that cell divides, it's got to copy the whole thing. Isn't that amazing?

We have learned many interesting things already about this human DNA instruction book, now that we have all those letters. One profound observation—and it is a good one to highlight this morning—is just how alike we all are. Your DNA and mine are 99.9% the same, and that would be true regardless of which one of you I chose for the comparison. So you see, at the DNA level, we really are part of one big worldwide family.

Faced with this rapidly growing body of information, one cannot help but feel a sense of awe at the amazing complexity and elegance of the human body—from the intricate digital DNA code to the marvelous nanotechnology machines that operate inside each cell of our bodies, to that most amazing organ of all, the human brain.

But this exploration of human biology is for many of us not just a sterile academic pursuit. Whether you are a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Muslim, a Jew, a Christian, or still searching, you would probably agree that the mandate to alleviate suffering is one of our highest callings. These new tools of biomedical research, many stemming from this new science of genomics, now provide us with an unprecedented opportunity for breakthroughs in cancer, diabetes, mental illness, infectious diseases, and many other conditions, and a true revolution is getting underway. Though there are legitimate concerns about setting appropriate boundaries for this research, we also have a strong ethical mandate to proceed as quickly as possible, so long as a sick child lives somewhere in the world who could be helped.

So these are exciting times for a scientist. But my hopes and dreams for all of us do not rest solely in science. I am also a man of faith. Many of you probably would assume that this stance stems from childhood training in a particular religious tradition, as that is certainly the way in which many come to believe. But that is not my story.

I was raised, as you heard, on a small farm in Virginia by wonderfully unconventional free-thinking parents who greatly valued learning, literature, music and the arts, but for whom religion was just not that important. As I fell in love with science as a teenager, I also slipped into a worldview that assumed that the only true meaning in the universe was to be found in mathematics and physical laws. And so I became first an agnostic and then an atheist.

But my scientific curiosity eventually led me from chemistry and physics into medicine. And there at the bedside of people with terrible illnesses, matters of life, death and the spirit were no longer academic. Just as it has been said—and General Pace said something very much like this—"there are no atheists in foxholes," I found that there were few atheists lying in hospital beds in this little hospital in North Carolina. One afternoon, a kindly grandmother with only a few weeks to live shared her own faith in Jesus with me, and then asked, "Doctor, what do you believe?" Stammering something about not being quite sure, I fled the room—(Laughter)

I had the disturbing sense that the atheist ice under my feet was cracking, though I wasn't quite sure why. And then suddenly the reason for my disquiet hit me: I was a scientist. I was supposed to make decisions based on evidence. And yet I had never really considered the evidence for and against faith.

Determined to shore up my position, I began to explore the path of others who before me had asked the same questions about



faith. In that search I was particularly affected by the writings of the Oxford scholar C.S. Lewis, who had similarly sought as a young man to defend his atheism and instead became a believer.

As I explored that evidence more deeply, all around me I began to see signposts to something outside of nature that could only be called God. I realized that the scientific method can really only answer questions about HOW things work. It can't answer questions about WHY, and aren't those in fact the most important ones? Why is there something instead of nothing? Why does mathematics work so beautifully to describe nature? Why is the universe so precisely tuned to make life possible? And it is. Why do we humans have a universal sense of right and wrong, and an urge to do what is right, even though we often disagree on how to interpret that calling?

Confronted with these revelations, I realized my own assumption—that faith was the opposite of reason—was incorrect. I should have known better. Scripture defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Evidence!

Simultaneously I realized that atheism was in fact the least rational of all the choices. As Chesterton wrote, “Atheism is indeed the most daring of all dogmas, for it is the assertion of a universal negative.”

How could I have had the arrogance to make that assertion?

So I had to accept the plausibility of a powerful force, a creative Mind, that existed outside of nature. But was God only to be found in the abstract, or did he also care about me? I felt an increasing hunger to answer that question.

After searching for two years more, I ultimately found my own answer, in the loving person of Jesus Christ. Here was a man unlike any other. He was humble and kind-hearted. He reached out to those considered lowest in society. He made astounding statements about loving your enemies. And he promised something that no ordinary man should be able to promise—to forgive sins. On top of all that, having assumed all my life that Jesus was just a myth, I was astounded to learn that the evidence for his historical existence was actually overwhelming.

Eventually I concluded the evidence demanded a verdict. And in my 28th year, while hiking in the majestic Cascade mountains in the Pacific Northwest, I could no longer deny my need for forgiveness and my need for new life, and I gave in and became a follower of Jesus. He is now the rock upon which I stand, the source for me of ultimate love, peace, joy, and hope.

But, some of you might say, you're a geneticist. Doesn't this make your head explode? (Laughter)

Aren't there irreconcilable contradictions between your scientific and spiritual worldviews? No. Not at all! As long as one uses a thoughtful approach to interpretation of the meaning of Scripture in light of what science has allowed us to learn about the universe, as St. Augustine compellingly articulated 1600 years ago—I can't identify a single conflict between what I know as a rigorous scientist and what I know as a believer. Not one. Yes, science is the reliable way to understand the natural world. But being a believer allows me to see scientific discoveries in a wholly new light. In that context, science becomes a means not only of discovery, but of worship. When as a scientist I have the great privilege of learning something that no human knew before, as a believer I also have the indescribable experience of having caught a glimpse of God's mind.

Bernard Lonergan captured this aspect of scientific discovery as “the eternal rapture

glimpsed in every Archimedean cry of Eureka.” So if this is all true, why does there seem to be such a battle going on between science and faith, at least in some quarters? As is often the case in such battles, a bit of effort on each side to understand each other would go a long way. Concrete thinkers amongst my own colleagues who deny the value of a spiritual worldview would be well advised to admit the ultimate impoverishment of that perspective given that it offers no answers to questions like “Why am I here?” Perhaps Jesus was thinking of such folks when he said in Matthew 11, verse 25, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.” (Laughter)

On the other hand, some well-meaning believers have adopted the view that science is a threat to faith, and that God has to somehow be defended against scientific conclusions. Is this really compatible with trust in the Almighty, who could hardly be threatened by the efforts of our puny minds to understand his creation? God's creation is majestic, awesome, intricate, and beautiful, and it cannot possibly contradict itself. He is the same God whether you find him in the cathedral or in the laboratory. He is in the laws of physics, but he is also the ultimate source of love and forgiveness.

On June 26, 2000, I had the privilege to stand in the East Room of the White House, next to the President of the United States, announcing the completion of the first draft of the human genome. I was overcome with awe and a sense of history that morning. As a believer, this remarkable book of life did indeed seem to be written in the language in which God spoke life into being.

But that day was also one of personal mourning, for I had just spoken at a memorial service for my sister-in-law, a marionette artist whose wonderful light had been snuffed out much too soon by breast cancer. The promise of these new discoveries about the human genome had come too late for her.

Recalling the mixed emotions of that day, they bring into sharp focus the complex nature of our human condition. We have great hopes for health and long life for ourselves and our families, but all too often we stand at the gravesides of loved ones who have been taken from us much too soon. We find in the great truths of faith the kind of clear spiritual water that we long for, but all too often we see that pure water has been poured into those rusty human vessels, distorted, and discolored. We want to believe in ultimate human goodness, but all too often our hopes are dashed by selfish and violent acts of our own human family against each other. We cling to the promise of new scientific breakthroughs to help our hurting world, but we fear that some of these discoveries may be used in ways that cause more harm than good. All in all, we dream of an earthly garden of delight, but all too often it seems more like a vale of tears.

Yet if we put our trust in God, and resolve to put love above all else, we are promised ultimate victory over all these trials. “Come unto me, all you who are burdened and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

So, my brothers and sisters, from every creed and nation, let us here today resolve to love one another, and to celebrate the beautiful and intricate world that God has given us. Let us agree to protect it, even as we seek to join the power of science with the warm embrace of human compassion to reach out to all those who need healing, whether of body or spirit.

To conclude this homily, I propose to do something risky, to ask you all to join me in singing a song. Some may find it ironic that last year's speaker—(Laughter)

—the rock star Bono, spoke about justice and world economics but passed up the chance to sing. (Laughter)

Now this year's speaker, a scientist who might be considered a bit of a nerd, proposes to sing and even play the guitar. But the Prayer Breakfast is where we are all supposed to break out of our comfort zones. (Laughter)

So please help me—I need it—break out of your own comfort zones and sing along with me. In your program you will find a little card which has three verses of a wonderful hymn. The tune will be familiar to many of you and will be quickly learned by the rest. Harmony is welcome. So my brothers and sisters, lift your hearts and voices with me as we praise the God who is the source of all faith and learning.

(Song: “Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”)

[Words by Rev. Thomas H. Troeger

From Borrowed Light: Hymn Texts, Prayers and Poems

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(To the tune of Hyfrydol)]

Praise the source of faith and learning who has sparked and stoked the mind

With a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.

Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey

Keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.

God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art

And the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.

Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound

Where Your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.

As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow

Till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow,

Blend O God our faith and learning till they carve a single course,

Till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to You, their Source.

(Applause)

Dr. Collins: Amen. Amen.

Rep. Cleaver: Amen.

Although you do not have a speaking part at today's breakfast, Mrs. Bush, you say more about grace and love just sitting there than most of us could say in an hour. Thank you. (Applause)

Dr. Collins used the words of the New Testament, “Come to me those who labor, those who are tired, those who are weary, and I will give you rest.” The President of the United States has the most difficult job on this planet, and those words should be comforting to him today.

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, George W. Bush. (Applause)

President George W. Bush: Thank you all. Thank you very much. Now will you please join me in singing “The Eyes of Texas.” (Laughter)

Good morning. Laura and I are honored to join you here at the 55th National Prayer Breakfast. It is an amazing country, isn't it, when people from all walks of life gather to recognize our dependence on an almighty God, and to ask Him for blessings in our life. I think a breakfast such as this speaks to the true strength of the United States of America. (Applause)

We come from many different faiths, yet we share this profound conviction: We believe that God listens to the voice of His children, and pours His grace upon those who seek Him in prayer.



I appreciate, Mr. Congressman, you and Jo Ann Davis, for leading this prayer breakfast. And thanks for paying tribute to my wife. (Applause)

I appreciate the speaker's presence, Congressman Hoyer's presence, Congressman Blunt's presence. I want to thank all the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who have joined us. I appreciate the fact that we have governors here, local officials and state officials. I thank the members of my Cabinet for joining us—Don't linger, you've got a job to do. (Laughter)

I thank the military officials who have joined us; distinguished dignitaries. Mr. Prime Minister, we are glad you're here. Thank you for joining us.

I appreciate Dr. Collins. I want to thank Reverend Mucci and his wife Kathy. I appreciate Nicole Mullen. Most of all, thank you all.

We are a nation of prayer. America prays. (Applause)

Each day millions of our citizens bow their heads in silence and solitude, or they offer up prayers in fellowship with others. They pray for themselves, they pray for their families, they pray for their neighbors and their communities. In many congregations and homes across this great land, people also set aside time to pray for our nation and those entrusted with authority, including our elected leaders.

In my travels, I often see hand-printed signs and personal messages from citizens that carry words of prayer. Sometimes it's a single little girl holding up a placard that reads, "Mr. President, be encouraged, you are prayed for." Sometimes it's a banner held by a group of young people that says, "We are praying for you, Mr. President." I often hear similar words when I meet people on a rope line. Isn't that interesting? You're working a rope line and people come up and say, "Mr. President, I am praying for you and your family."

The greatest gift a citizen of this country can give those of us entrusted with political office is to pray for us. And I thank those in our nation who lift all of us up in prayer. (Applause)

Our troops must understand that every day—every day—millions of our citizens lift them up in prayer. (Applause)

We pray for their safety. We pray for their families they have left at home. We pray for those who have been wounded, for their comfort and recovery. We remember those who have been lost, and we pray that their loved ones feel the healing touch of the Almighty. During this time of war, we thank God that we are part of a nation that produces courageous men and women who volunteer to defend us.

Many in our country know the power of prayer. Prayer changes hearts. Prayer changes lives. And prayer makes us a more compassionate and giving people. When we pray, we surrender our will to the Almighty, and open ourselves up to His priorities and His touch. His call to love our neighbors as we would like to be loved ourselves is something that we hear when we pray. And we answer that call by reaching out to feed the hungry and clothe the poor, and aid the widow and the orphan. By helping our brothers and sisters in need, we find our own faith strengthened, and we receive the grace to lead lives of dignity and purpose.

We see this grace in the life of a young American named Shannon Hickey. Shannon was one of Laura's guests at the State of the Union. When Shannon was growing up, her favorite priest was Father Mychal Judge, a chaplain with the New York City Fire Department. Father Mychal helped Shannon and her family through Shannon's struggle with liver disease. On September the 11, 2001,

Father Mychal lost his life in the World Trade Center. In memory of her friend, Shannon founded Mychal's Message, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing Father Mychal's loving spirit. Over the last five years, Mychal's Message has collected and distributed more than 100,000 needed items to the poor and the homeless. With each gift to the needy, Shannon encloses a card with Father Mychal's personal prayer. It reads, "Lord, take me where You want me to go, let me meet who You want me to meet, tell me what You want me to say, and keep me out of Your way."

Father Mychal's humble prayer reminds us of an eternal truth: In the quiet of prayer, we leave behind our own cares and we take up the cares of the Almighty. And in answering His call to service we find that, in the words of Isaiah, "We will gain new strength. We will run and not get tired. We will walk and not become weary."

And so I thank you for joining us on this day of prayer. I thank you for the tradition you continue here today. And I ask for God's blessings on the United States of America. (Applause)

Rep. Cleaver: Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please remain in your seats while the President and Mrs. Bush leave, and Nicole Mullen will return to the microphone. If all of you would be so kind as to remain in your seats until I tell you to leave. (Laughter)

Ms. Mullen: I wrote a song based on the words of Job, who had gone from hardship and back to goodness again. He simply said, "I know that my redeemer lives."

(Song: Redeemer) (Applause)

Rep. Cleaver: Amen.

Amen. He does live. Thank you so much, Nicole. Thank you for blessing us.

As we prepare to leave this place today, I would remind you that years ago the prophet Isaiah gave us the word of the Lord when he wrote:

"Stop doing wrong, learn to do right. Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. 'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord."

As the light of the world, you pierce the darkness in troubled times, those of you who are leaders both in this country and around the world. Please know that we all struggle against the forces of darkness. The power of sin and alienation is strong, but you are now stronger. Our world needs your healing power and your love.

Today, oh God, I pray for our world leaders. I pray that the power of your love will guide their decisions.

And now, we ask that you go out into the world and make a difference. Amen. (Applause)

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP THORNWELL HENRY

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Phillip Thornwell Henry.

Throughout his life, Phil was dedicated to enriching the lives of those around him. Phil was born in Roanoke County, Virginia and attended Cave Spring High School and subsequently earned a degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in civil engineering. As a civil engineer, Phil sought to improve the quality of life of others and began

his long and illustrious career by working for the Corps of Engineers in West Virginia. After the birth of his two sons, Phil and his young family moved to Martinsville, Virginia where he worked as the City Engineer and Superintendent of Water Resources for 11 years.

In 1984, Phil and his family moved to Boulder City, Nevada where he became the City Engineer. Two years later, Phil moved back to his native Virginia, where he worked as the county engineer in Roanoke before returning to Boulder City in 1991. In 1995, Phil was promoted to Director of Public Works in Boulder City. During his tenure as Director, Phil oversaw many projects, such as the extension of Adams Boulevard, the creation of Memorial Park and Boulder Creek Golf Course and the expansion of the Boulder City Cemetery. In 2005, Phil retired from his life of public service in engineering and moved back to Roanoke. In addition to his numerous professional achievements, Phil was an active member of the community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Phil Thornwell Henry. He greatly enriched countless lives in both Nevada and Virginia and he will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 10, 2007 I missed roll call votes Nos. 865 and 866. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 257 and "aye" on H. Res. 643.

#### CAMERON ELIZABETH ETHERIDGE MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my son Brian and his wife Meredith on the birth of their second child, Cameron Elizabeth Etheridge. Cameron was born on my birthday Tuesday, August 7, 2007 and weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. My wife Faye and I are excited about the birth of our third grandchild, and she joins me in wishing Brian and Meredith and their daughter, Virginia, great happiness upon this new addition to our family.

Faye and I are truly blessed by the arrival of Cameron Elizabeth Etheridge. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. And I know that Virginia is excited to have a sister with whom she can play. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world.

God has truly blessed my family with this new addition. My family and I are looking forward to spending a lot of time with our new bundle of joy and introducing her to all of our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

CONGRATULATING CENTRAL  
STATES TRUCKING COMPANY

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Central States Trucking Company of Bensenville, Illinois, for being named one of the top 5,000 privately owned businesses in America by Inc. Magazine.

The Inc. 5000 list highlights the fastest growing companies in the country.

Madam Speaker, companies like this are the backbone of the U.S. economy and an integral part of my Congressional District.

With a growth rate of 67%, Central States Trucking Company is a fine example of the hard work and productivity that sets American businesses apart in the global marketplace.

Central States Trucking Company is a family-owned business that directly employs more than 300 individuals. Their economic activity indirectly supports the jobs of countless others. Under the visionary leadership of President Doug Grane, Central States Trucking is on track to grow revenues to nearly \$42 million.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing this outstanding achievement.

I am proud to represent Central States Trucking Company in the United States House of Representatives and wish them all the best in the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
JAMES GATLIN

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and educational career of James Gatlin and to acknowledge his contributions as a mentor and role model to generations of Tampa Bay area students.

Raised in Tampa, Florida, James Gatlin witnessed great changes in education throughout his life. He attended Middleton High, a black segregated high school, and quickly realized the importance of education. Gatlin recounted tales of receiving tattered books in school and being forced to sit in the back of public buses. Public education is the grand equalizer among people in our great country and he witnessed and valued black and white students learning side-by-side in the classroom and cheering together at the school's football games.

James Gatlin attended Florida A&M University where he received his Bachelor's degree and later was awarded a Master's degree in Education from the Tuskegee Institute. He began his 45-year educational career in the Hillsborough County schools in 1963, teaching agricultural courses at Bethune School. In 1972, he served as Dean of Students at Buchanan Junior High School, and six years later, Gatlin was appointed Principal. In 1984, he became the popular Principal of Chamberlain High School and my principal as a high school student. He held this post for ten years until 1994, when he was appointed General

Director of Technical and Career Education. In 1989, he became aware that many black students were not graduating and began a mentoring program that included tours of university campuses. Gatlin was also a strong believer in helping students not attending college to find employment. He was promoted to general area director of Area II schools in 1997 until he retired in 2003. His leadership was needed, however, and Gatlin returned to education and served as assistant principal for the Meacham Alternative School in 2004. He accepted his final position as principal of his alma mater, Middleton High School, in August 2005, a great joy for him personally, but a greater benefit to all who experienced his dedication and service there.

"Gat" as he was called by those who knew him best, lived by the motto that "education makes life better". Many students took his motto to heart, and admired him for his strength of character as well as his genial spirit. Students admired his humorous spirit as well. He dressed up as the mascot during pep rallies and danced at homecoming events. Every year, Gatlin held a popular and delicious barbecue for the senior class. A former student remembered Principal Gatlin saying, "He just made school fun".

The entire Hillsborough County community honors and remembers the 68 year life of James Gatlin, and we offer condolences to his wife Evelyn as well as his sons James III, Marcus, and Brent. James Gatlin molded the lives of generations of students through his dedication to education and to the community as a whole. His example will continue to live through those that worked with him and those who learned from him.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAGIC  
TERRORIST ATTACKS OF 9/11/01

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, today, we commemorate the sixth anniversary of the terrible terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. We remember the men, women and children who lost their lives that day and we honor the courage and the heroism of our first responders and those who put themselves in harm's way to help others.

This anniversary is also a time to reflect on the values that define us and separate us from terrorists, values like liberty, democracy, tolerance, freedom of expression and respect for the rule of law.

It is also appropriate to recognize just how misguided the Bush administration's response to those attacks has been. Six years later, Osama bin Laden is still at large while our military is pinned down in a civil war in a country that had nothing to do with the attacks in an occupation that serves as a rallying point for terrorist recruitment and fundraising. It is clear that this is a policy that is making our nation less safe, not more safe, and the first step towards a policy that effectively combats global terrorism is to end the occupation of Iraq.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST  
TRAVIS M. VIRGADAMO

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Specialist Travis M. Virgadamo, who died on August 30, 2007.

Specialist Virgadamo was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the United States Army to serve his country in the Global War on Terror. He will not only be remembered for his willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Specialist Travis M. Virgadamo. Specialist Virgadamo's choice to serve his country speaks volumes of his patriotism and his strong desire to protect others.

LOUISBURG COLLEGE: A LEGACY  
OF 220 YEARS

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the legacy of a North Carolina institution. Louisburg College, the oldest two-year church affiliated, co-educational college in the nation, has filled a niche in North Carolina's system of higher education. As the only residential junior college in the state, the institution provides an excellent introduction to the collegiate life for college freshmen and sophomores. Louisburg College offers a premier beginning to successful academic and professional achievement. For 220 years the college has impacted lives and fulfilled its mission: Louisburg College is committed to offering a supportive community that nurtures young men and women intellectually, culturally, socially, physically, and spiritually.

Louisburg College had its beginning in the period that witnessed the emergence of America as an independent nation, the birth of the Methodist Church in America, and the establishment of Franklin County, North Carolina, and the town of Louisburg. Having evolved from three earlier institutions, Franklin Male Academy, Louisburg Female Academy, and Louisburg Female College. The roots of Louisburg College trace back to the early years of the town of Louisburg, the county seat of Franklin County. Founded in 1779, during the American Revolution, the county was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin and the town in honor of King Louis XVI of France.

Franklin Male Academy opened on January 1, 1805, under the direction of Yale graduate Matthew Dickinson. Franklin Male Academy prospered in its early years and soon had an enrollment of ninety students. The second stage in the evolution of Louisburg College began on December 27, 1814, when the state legislature ratified an act chartering the Louisburg Female Academy. By August 1815, Louisburg Female Academy was operating under the guidance of Harriet Partridge. The third stage of the evolution of Louisburg College began in January 1855, when the state

legislature authorized the transfer of property by the trustees of Louisburg Female Academy to the directors of Louisburg Female College Company.

By August 1857, Louisburg College opened under the management of Professor James P. Nelson. The female college continued to operate during the Civil War under presidents C.C. Andrews (1860–1861) and James Southgate, Jr. (1862–1865). After the war, about 500 Union soldiers camped in the college and male academy groves during May and June of 1865. After the college opened and closed several times the 1870s and 1880s, S.D. Bagley became president in 1889. Matthew S. Davis, who had previously served twenty-five years as principal of the Male Academy, became president of the Female College in 1896 and held the office until his death in 1906. He was succeeded by his daughter, Mary Davis Allen, who was President until 1917.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a number of significant changes took place. The institution became known as Louisburg College, and the college became officially linked to the Methodist Church. Washington Duke had acquired ownership of the college property in the 1890s. After his death, his son Benjamin N. Duke presented the property to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. The Reverend Armour David Wilcox, former minister of the Louisburg Methodist Church, served as president of the college from 1931 to 1937. Louisburg College became co-educational in 1931, and student enrollment immediately increased. By the end of World War II, institutional debts had been paid and in 1952, Louisburg College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

During the 1986–87 school year, Louisburg college held a Bicentennial Celebration in recognition of its unique two-hundred-year heritage. The first college flag was designed and displayed during the celebration, and the first published history of the college, *Louisburg College Echoes*, was issued in 1988. Dr. C. Edward Brown, Jr. served as interim president in 1992, and Dr. Ronald I. May was president of Louisburg College from January 1993 through May 1998. Dr. Brown again assumed the interim presidency in June 1998. Dr. Rosemary Gillett-Karam became the twenty-fourth president of Louisburg College in December of 1998. Dr. Reginald Ponder assumed the presidency in 2002.

Louisburg College has contributed significantly to the growth and development of NC and the enrichment of countless of its citizens. I urge the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending this outstanding institution.

#### CONGRATULATING QUALITY FLOATS WORKS OF SCHAUMBURG

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Quality Float Works of Schaumburg, Illinois, for being named one of the top 5000 privately owned businesses in America by Inc. Magazine.

The Inc. 5,000 list highlights the fastest growing companies in the country.

Madam Speaker, companies like this are the backbone of the U.S. economy and an integral part of my Congressional District.

With a growth rate of 50%, Quality Float Works is a fine example of the hard work and productivity that sets American businesses apart in the global marketplace.

Quality Float Works is a family-owned business dating back to 1915. Despite the many challenges currently facing the U.S. manufacturing industry at large, Quality Float Works' reputation for providing exceptional products and complete customer satisfaction has helped them to grow and thrive.

Under the visionary leadership of President Sandra Westlund-Deenihan and Vice President Jason Speer, Quality Float Works continues to shine as an outstanding American small business.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement.

I am proud to represent the employees and customers of Quality Float Works in the United States House of Representatives and wish them all the best in the future.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LT. HENRY BOHLER, RETIRED

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and career of Lt. Henry Bohler, Retired, and to acknowledge his role as a Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

From as early as he could remember, Lt. Henry Bohler wanted to be a pilot. In an attempt to learn as much about flying as he could, he took an airport job at age 17. At the outbreak of World War II, the military was still segregated. Upon reading about the new Tuskegee Airmen, the first black military airmen in the United States who served under the command of the great Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., he enrolled and left for Tuskegee, Alabama for basic flight training. Lt. Bohler learned to fly the P-51 Mustang and served bravely in the military until 1947 when he left with the rank of second lieutenant. After graduation from Hampton University in Virginia, he relocated to Tampa in 1950. In Tampa, Lt. Henry Bohler ran his own business as an electrician for over 30 years until his retirement. He was the first African American licensed electrician in Tampa.

Lt. Bohler was with his wife and children in 1960 when they were turned away from the Lowry Park Zoo. As Zoo employees explained, his family was being turned away for no other reason than the color of their skin. Lt. Bohler took the city of Tampa to court and subsequently faced a lengthy trial. In the two years prior to his court decision, he was often targeted for harassment as he was routinely pulled over by police. On the day of his court decision, he was pulled over by police five times. It truly was a historic day for the City of Tampa when the judge ordered all parks and recreational facilities must be desegregated.

Friends admired his spirit, his work in the community, and his pride in his military service. Lt. Bohler never missed a Tuskegee Air-

men convention and would fly his own Piper Archer to several convention locations throughout the country. He was proud of his membership in the group and he still serves as an inspiration to the pilots of today. His walls are adorned with the awards and medals he received from schools and other organizations for his contributions to the community as well as his membership in the Tuskegee Airmen.

The entire Tampa community honors and remembers the life of Lt. Henry Bohler, Retired, and we offer our condolences to his wife, Clifford Marie, his sons, George and Henry Jr., and his daughter, Pamela, as well as his seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Lt. Henry Bohler, Retired, will continue to be remembered as a pioneer in the sky as well as for equality for his fellow citizens.

#### TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United States Capitol Historical Society, which is celebrating 45 years of History and Service to the United States Capitol.

Congressman Fred Schwengel, Senator Hubert Humphrey, and a group of fifteen other Members of Congress, historians and civic and business leaders organized the United States Capitol Historical Society on July 17, 1962. Forty-five years later, the USCHS continues to fulfill its mission by teaching the public about the founding, growth and significance of the Capitol of the United States as a tangible symbol of its representative form of government.

Convinced that an understanding of history was inextricably linked with responsible citizenship, the founders of the United States Capitol Historical Society adopted a mission statement committing the nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational organization to the role of "history teacher to the nation."

More than forty-five years after its founding, the Society continues to develop new and creative ways to bring the fascinating story of the Capitol to the public's attention. Among its tools are educational tours, scholarly symposia, observances of historic events, enhancement and preservation of the Capitol's collection of art and artifacts, sponsorship of research, the sale of publications and mementos of an historical nature, and assistance to Congressional and other Capitol offices.

The recent partnership of the USCHS with the National Archives and Old Town Trolley is particularly innovative. The Society has committed to working toward seeing every eighth grade student in the Washington, DC public schools tour "monumental" Washington to learn about the U.S. Constitution. This educational tour's sole purpose is to help students understand their place in American history and their role in the process of government.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great organization dedicated to preserving the history of the most recognizable symbol of representative government in the world, the United States Capitol.

FEDERAL MERIT SYSTEM  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have worked with Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA (D-Hawaii), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, on the "Federal Merit System Reauthorization Act," (the Act) which reauthorizes the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) and the Merit System's Protection Board (MSPB) for three years. The shorter reauthorization period will allow Congress to review OSC's and MSPB's implementation of the new provisions in the Act before being reauthorized for a longer period of time.

The Act provides that OSC prescribe regulations to establish responsible and professional standards for investigating complaints; maintain open and regular communications with complainants; establish an alternate dispute resolution office in the District of Columbia; and implement procedural changes to improve agency performance. The Act also establishes a process for external investigation by the President's Counsel on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) when an OSC employee files a complaint alleging wrongdoing by the Special Counsel or the deputy Special Counsel. The PCIE, established by Executive Order in 1992, was formed to address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies, and increase the professional and effectiveness of Inspector General Personnel throughout the Government.

In addition, the Act clarifies that employees filing an Individual Right of Action before the MSPB (bringing a case to the MSPB if OSC has not provided relief in 120 days) need to only identify the precise personnel actions being challenged in the initial complaint to OSC and that relief was not provided by OSC. The Act provides that a complainant can file an appeal to be considered on an expedited basis if an administrative law judge denies a request to suspend/delay the alleged retaliatory action. The Act outlines procedural changes MSPB must implement to improve agency performance.

While OSC and MSPB are required to submit annual reports to Congress on its activities, the Act increases reporting requirements for both agencies in addition to requiring OSC to survey individuals who make whistleblower disclosures to OSC.

Employee rights have been weakened under this Administration. The "Federal Merit System Reauthorization Act of 2007" sends a strong message that whistleblower protection and employee rights are key elements of the federal civil service merit system and must be enforced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on September 17, 2007, I missed votes because I

was traveling to be with my oldest daughter as she gave birth to her first child, my grandchild.

MOVEON PERSONAL ATTACK ON  
GENERAL PATRAEUS INAPPROPRIATE

**HON. JOHN J. HALL**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, General Petraeus is a good man and an excellent soldier, and the MoveOn advertisement's personal attack on the general was completely inappropriate. I respect the brave service, commitment and sacrifice of the men and women who wear the uniform and would never disparage them. It is disappointing that the general and the rest of our troops have been put in an impossible position by the failed policies of President Bush and I continue to believe the United States should wind down its involvement in Iraq, help bolster the Afghanistan government, and eliminate bin Laden and those who did attack us on September 11th.

SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN'S ADMIS-  
SION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**HON. MIKE FERGUSON**

OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to state my support for Taiwan's admission to the United Nations. Taiwan has been a sovereign state with a democratically-elected government since 1949 and it is only fair that they be allowed to represent their 23 million citizens in this international body. Taiwan has a steadily growing economy, a stable, democratically elected government and their own educational and legal system. They are a strong ally of the United States, and it is only right that we support them in their ongoing effort to gain U.N. membership.

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FREEDOM TRAIN

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, it was 60 years ago on this date—September 16, 1947—that the Freedom Train appeared to start a special journey across the United States. Contained in the railcars of the "Spirit of 1776" were some of the documents that form America's foundation.

During a 16-month route that carried the Freedom Train to our contiguous 48 states at that time, millions of Americans saw the rolling museum visit communities large and small. It was a time when our Nation was reminding itself of the struggles that led to its formation as well as the struggles that had come in the decades just before in the form of the Great Depression and then World War II. It was also

a time during which railroads were able to showcase their still widely popular form of transit by leading a mission grounded in American pride.

The Freedom Train put more than 37,000 miles behind it during its nationwide tour. So many Americans were able to lay their eyes on original documents like the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence and understand just how valuable those pieces of paper were to our country's place in history.

I extend special thanks today to my constituents, John and Mary Jayne Rowe of Covington, Virginia, for their tireless work to catalog the history of the Freedom Train for generations to come. I also ask that we pay honor to the few Marine guards who will meet a reunion in a few weeks to further remember their role in protecting the Freedom Train on its special trip across our great country.

INTRODUCTION OF PROTECT  
AMERICANS FROM CRIMES ON  
CRUISE SHIPS RESOLUTION

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Protect Americans from Crimes on Cruise Ships Resolution with many of my distinguished colleagues, including Representatives CHRIS SHAYS and CAROLYN MALONEY.

Madam Speaker, in 2007, over 12 million Americans will travel on cruise lines. Unfortunately, few of these vacationing "cruisers" fully appreciate their potential vulnerability to crime while on an ocean voyage. Citizens who are victimized often do not know their legal rights or who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of the crime.

In recent years, the media has reported on a number of high profile cases of passengers falling overboard, passengers gone missing and passengers being raped and sexually assaulted. Sadly, many of these cases remain unresolved. Worse yet, many cases go unreported because there is no industry reporting mechanism.

My involvement in this issue began after a young woman from my district, Laurie Dishman, came to me for assistance after she had been a victim of a violent crime on a cruise ship. Laurie shared her shocking story with me in a letter one year ago.

As a passenger on board the *Vision of the Seas*, a ship operated by Royal Caribbean, Laurie was raped by a crew member. One of the most disturbing aspects of Laurie's case is that the cruise ship on which she was raped was short security staff. As a result, the cruise line promoted someone with no training to perform security personnel duties. If a real security guard had been aboard, Laurie may have been spared her awful ordeal. The tragedy that ensued is something that Laurie will never forget.

The story of her experience on the ship was shocking enough. Unfortunately, I soon learned that was only the beginning. Laurie wrote me to tell me she was having difficulty getting a response to her request for information about the incident from the cruise line. As I began looking into the matter, a number of red flags were raised regarding the handling of

Laurie's particular case. These include the FBI's decision not to have a polygraph test of the crewmember and the cruise line's decision to withhold Laurie's own medical information.

These incidents beg the question: what is the process when a crime is committed on a cruise line and what recourse do passengers have? The more I have inquired, the more I have been alarmed that there is no shortage of cases of: rape, sexual assaults of minors, alcohol related fighting and abuse, and persons overboard.

Even more troubling, most of these incidents have not been fully resolved or prosecuted. I have also learned that there have been no convictions for rape cases on cruise lines in four decades, a statistic that takes a new meaning through the lens of Ms. Dishman's experience.

As a result of continued cases of victims of crimes on the high seas, and with the much appreciated leadership of Chairman CUMMINGS, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on this important issue in March, 2007. The hearing showed numerous discrepancies between the experience sold by cruise lines and the real experience on board these ships. In addition, the hearing highlighted how crime numbers reported to Congress in a previous hearing are radically different from the cruise industry's internal crime statistics.

The result of our hearing, combined with numerous and unending media reports of crimes on cruise ships, point to the need for increased safety and security for these passengers. Prevention can be an important tool, and we all know that prevention starts with making people aware of the potential for a crime to occur. It is time for Congress to acknowledge formally this ongoing problem and to ensure that Americans are informed, aware and safe. The Resolution I am introducing today will do just that.

The resolution acknowledges:

The lack of federal regulation overseeing crime reporting by the cruise industry;

The absence of law enforcement officials on ocean voyages;

That without a law enforcement official, cruise officials are essentially responsible for collection and preserving a crime scene;

Most cruise ships are registered under the laws of another country;

Perpetrators of sexual violence and other violent crimes on cruise ships are rarely brought to justice; and

Consumers who book a cruise generally do not receive information at the point of sale about their legal rights as a cruise passenger and who to contact for help in the event a crime occurs during their voyage.

And Resolves that:

The members of the International Cruise Victims Association, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network are to be commended for their leadership in highlighting the problem of crimes against American citizens on cruise ships;

Americans who are victims of crime on a cruise ship should have access to justice, and necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice;

The cruise industry should provide comprehensive information to passengers about security risks and maintain necessary security personnel on each ship; and

Congress should provide oversight to ensure the safety and security of American passengers.

Madam Speaker, nearly all cruise ships operate under a foreign flag. U.S. citizens who are victimized onboard cruise ships often do not know their legal rights or who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of crimes. Cruises operate in a legal vacuum, where a lack of accountability empowers predators and obstructs their victims' pursuit of justice. That is an unacceptable situation, made worse by the cruise lines' own efforts to avoid scrutiny of and accountability for their own handling of the security of their passengers.

My hope is that with increased Congressional involvement that the cruise lines finally take these crimes seriously and enact necessary reforms. The Resolution acknowledges the ongoing safety concerns and will help ensure that the millions of men, women and children who cruise each year are informed, aware and safe on cruise ships. This resolution is supported by the Women's Caucus and Victim's Rights Caucus, and I would urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important Resolution.

#### IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL YARBROUGH

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Michael Yarbrough of Glen Rose, Arkansas, who died on September 6, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 24 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations.

Sergeant Yarbrough's deep sense of unity and teamwork led him to honorably serve his country as a United States Marine. Having completed 2 tours of duty, Sergeant Yarbrough volunteered to return to Iraq in place of a soldier whose wife was pregnant. This gesture of selflessness encapsulated the spirit of this young man as he was always thinking of others before himself.

Sergeant Yarbrough joined the Marines in January of 2002, and his proud service will continue to live on and serve as an inspiration to the many soldiers who knew him and fought alongside him in combat. He was a Marine in the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. His bravery and courage as a Marine was exemplified by his numerous awards and military decorations, including the Purple Heart Medal.

Sergeant Michael Yarbrough gave his life to serve our country and he will forever be remembered as a hero, a husband, a son and a friend. My deepest condolences go out to his wife Mary Ann Yarbrough; his mother, Rhonda Kidder and his father Jerry Yarbrough; his 2 sisters Misty Hutcheson and Christy Smith; and to his numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. He will be missed by his family, his community, his country and all those who knew him. On this 17th day of September, which would have been Sergeant Yarbrough's 25th birthday, I honor him for his service and will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS ON OUR PLANET

#### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about climate change and concerns that I share with many Americans about its effects on our planet. The Industrial Revolution ushered in a new world of economic opportunity and prosperity in this country, but with that also came major changes to the composition of the Earth's atmosphere.

For the past 200 years, the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, and deforestation have caused the concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases to increase significantly in our atmosphere. As the concentrations of these gases continue to increase, the Earth's temperature is rising to record levels. According to NOAA and NASA data, the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 1.2 to 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900. The warmest global average temperatures on record have all occurred during the last 15 years, with 1998 and 2005 being the hottest. And we all know how extremely hot this past August was—one of the hottest months on record in many parts of the country.

If greenhouse gases continue to increase, climate models predict that the average temperature of the Earth's surface could increase from 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit above 1990 levels by the end of this century. This phenomenon of climate change may be a reason for many environmental issues facing our world today. Whether it's melting polar ice caps, devastating floods, shriveling droughts, or sea level rise, every area of the globe has the potential to be affected by the impacts of global warming.

The contributing factors to global warming are many and are not concentrated from one source. Emissions come from power plants, vehicles, industrial processes, agriculture, forestry, and other land use, and waste management. If we are to be successful in curbing our greenhouse gas emissions, we must institute an economy-wide application to protect our environment while not dislocating any vital economic sectors.

Working to reduce the contributing factors of climate change also has the strong potential of helping the U.S. reduce its dependence on foreign oil. New technologies are constantly being developed for alternative fuels and other petroleum-based products. It is important that we move forward with a balanced approach to both energy independence and emissions reduction that takes into account impacts to both the environment and the economy.

#### HONORING U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST MARISOL HEREDIA

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Specialist Marisol Heredia who died of injuries suffered while serving in Iraq. Specialist Heredia was a member of the U.S.

Army's 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Calvary Division, deployed from Fort Hood, Texas.

Specialist Marisol Heredia was from El Monte, California. She was born on September 16, 1987. She received a public school education and attended Mountain View High School, where she was a dedicated student who graduated half a year earlier than her class.

For love of country and out of admiration for her older sister who served in the U.S. military, Specialist Heredia joined the United States Army in July, 2005. Specialist Marisol Heredia was deployed last October to serve her first tour of duty in Iraq. On July 18, 2007 a vehicle she was fueling caught on fire in Baghdad, Iraq. She was evacuated to Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for treatment, but passed away on September 7, 2007 as a result of her injuries.

Specialist Heredia served this country with courage, pride and loyalty. She gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country and for that we will be forever grateful to her and her family. She was buried yesterday on what would have been her 20th birthday. My prayers and deepest sympathy go out to her family and friends.

She is survived by her 3 sisters, as well as her mother and stepfather who were deeply touched by her kind heart and gentle strength.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to travel

to Washington, DC for votes on September 10, 2007.

However, I would like the record to reflect that I would have recorded "yes" for that day's recorded votes. They included:

(1) H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and;

(2) H. Res. 643—Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

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#### TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EDWARD SMITH

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a spiritual leader whose commitment to his congregation and to his church spans half of a century. Bishop Edward Smith, dedicated pastor of the Progressive Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, celebrates his 50th anniversary in the ministry this year. A beacon for hope in times of sorrow and an inspiring figure in times of celebration, Bishop Smith has faithfully and prayerfully served the Denmark community. I congratulate Bishop Smith on this significant milestone in his ministry.

In the Book of Micah we find the question, "What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with

your God?" Bishop Smith has certainly answered with an adherence to that biblical admonition. He began his service in 1957. Bishop Joseph Williams appointed the then Elder Smith as the new pastor of Progressive Church following the resignation of Elder Collins. In accepting this challenge, Bishop Smith said, "The Lord saved me for service and if this is where I am to serve, here am I Lord use me." And so, with the Apostle Peter as his example, Bishop Smith sold his home in Columbia, South Carolina and went to Denmark to build a house for the Lord.

By fall 1959, Bishop Smith moved his church from Blackville, South Carolina to a storefront in Denmark, South Carolina, increasing his congregation from six to fifteen. With the power of faith, the force of hammers, and Bishop Smith as their guide, seven months of construction later, February 1963, there stood a new church on East Haynes Street.

Over the course of the 46 years that followed, he presided over an expansion that included a Progressive Child Development Center established in 1986, and the purchase of a sixteen acre track of land on Progressive Way, where Bishop Smith envisions a new K-12 school and efficiency apartments for the elderly. Today, the Progressive Church in Denmark attracts congregants from five neighboring counties.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bishop Edward Smith on his 50th Anniversary. Like his spiritual guide, Saint Peter, he has established a strong house for God. In addition, this vibrant and devoted civic leader has enriched the lives of many in Denmark, South Carolina. I commend his steadfastness on behalf of "the least of these" and I applaud Bishop Edward Smith for his half century of public service.



## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robin Renee Sanders, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Barry Leon Wells, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Mark M. Boulware, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, James D. McGee, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Ronald K. McMullen, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the State of Eritrea.

SD-419

## Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the process of federal recognition of Indian tribes.

SD-628

## Rules and Administration

To hold a hearing to examine S. 1905, to provide for a rotating schedule for regional selection of delegates to a national Presidential nominating convention.

SR-301

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the current state of affairs for information technology with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the evolution of an economic crisis, focusing on the subprime lending disaster and the threat to the broader economy.

SH-216

10 a.m.

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to mark up S. 1518, to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and H.R. 835, to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians, and an original bill entitled, "FHA Modernization Act of 2007".

SD-538

## Environment and Public Works

## Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine America's wastewater infrastructure needs in the 21st century.

SD-406

10:30 a.m.

## Aging

To hold hearings to examine preparing for the digital television transition, focusing on how senior citizens will be affected.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the "material support to terrorist organizations" bar to admission to asylum and resettlement in the United States, focusing on the denial of refuge to the persecuted.

SD-226

3 p.m.

## Foreign Relations

## International Operations and Organizations, Democracy and Human Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Everglades, focusing on protecting natural treasures through international organizations.

SD-419

## SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation by the American Legion.

345, Cannon Building

9:55 a.m.

## Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 589, to provide for the transfer of certain Federal property to the United States Paralympics, Incorporated, a subsidiary of the United States Olympic Committee, and General Services Administration resolutions.

SD-406

10 a.m.

## Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the condition of our Nation's bridges.

SD-406

## Finance

To hold hearings to examine a review of bank treatment of social security benefits.

SD-215

## Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine expanding opportunities for women entrepreneurs, focusing on the future of women's small business programs.

SR-428A

2:30 p.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Office of Management and Budget's oversight on ongoing information systems projects, focusing on the efficacy of the management practices used by agencies to ensure the success of the projects.

SD-342

## Energy and Natural Resources

## Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1143, to designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

and the surrounding Federal land in the State of Florida as an Outstanding Natural Area and as a unit of the National Landscape System, S. 2034, to amend the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 to designate the Copper Salmon Wilderness and to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the North and South Forks of the Elk River in the State of Oregon as wild or scenic rivers, S. 1377, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, S. 1608 and H.R. 815, bills to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard, S. 1740, to amend the Act of February 22, 1889, and the Act of July 2, 1862, to provide for the management of public land trust funds in the State of North Dakota, S. 1802, to adjust the boundaries of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in the State of Idaho, S. 1939, to provide for the conveyance of certain land in the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, S. 1940, to reauthorize the Rio Puerco Watershed Management Program, and S. 1433, to amend the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to provide competitive status to certain Federal employees in the State of Alaska.

SD-366

## Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

## SEPTEMBER 24

3 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine scientific assessments of the impacts of global climate change on wildfire activity in the United States.

SD-366

## SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine strengthening the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

SD-226

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Persian Gulf War research.

SD-562

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1756, to provide supplemental ex gratia compensation to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for impacts of the nuclear testing program of the United States.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

## SEPTEMBER 26

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1543, to establish a national geothermal initiative to encourage increased production of energy from geothermal resources.

SD-366



2:30 p.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael J. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 27

9:30 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine hard-rock mining on federal lands.

SD-366

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Hutter, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (T. Doc. 103-39).

SD-419

## Energy and Natural Resources

## National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 128, to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, enhance private property protections, S. 148, to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the State of New Jersey, S. 189, to decrease the matching funds requirements and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan, S. 697, to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 1341, to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, S. 1476, to authorize

the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System, S. 867, to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, S. 1709 and H.R. 1239, bills to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, S. 1808, to authorize the exchange of certain land in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska, and S. 1969, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Estate Grange and other sites related to Alexander Hamilton's life on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System.

SD-366